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Leaders seal 'unbreakable alliance' with jobs action plan and plea for peace in Ulster

Clinton and Blair hail new partnership

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON told the IRA to lay down their guns for good yesterday as he and Tony Blair put moves to win peace in Northern Ireland and the worldwide creation of jobs at the heart of a new Anglo-American partnership.

On a day of serious talking, socialising and displays of mutual admiration, the two men hailed "a new generation of politics and a new generation of leadership".

Standing side-by-side in the Downing Street rose garden, the Prime Minister said that they were of a generation that preferred reason to doctrine. "It is strong on ideals but indifferent to ideology, whose instinct is to judge government not on grand designs but by practical results."

Mr Clinton echoed the sentiment, saying: "I don't think it is the end of ideology, but I think it is the end of yesterday's ideology."

Mr Clinton also paid tribute to the "unique partnership" between America and Britain, inviting the Prime Minister to visit Washington soon. "Over the last 50 years our unbreakable alliance has helped to bring our people unparalleled peace and prosperity and security."

As their wives took lunch at 11 Downing Street before going to the Shakespearean replica Globe Theatre, the leaders cemented their friendship and tried to show they could do business together. They sealed the new relationship by unveiling a two-year initiative to promote jobs



They go back a long way - yesterday morning, wasn't it?

through encouraging flexible job markets, acting to reduce the growing underclass dependent on benefits, and reducing employers' costs.

The idea will be pursued through America's presidency of the G7 group of industrial nations and by Britain when it takes over next year. The two leaders will formally put the plan to the G7 summit in Denver next month and Gordon Brown will chair a special meeting of finance and employment ministers in Britain next January. A full action programme is expected to be agreed at next year's G7 summit in Birmingham.

Mr Clinton also delivered his host by backing British calls for an unequivocal IRA ceasefire before Sinn Fein could be allowed into all-party talks, and telling the Republi-

cans that they would have to compromise.

In perhaps his strongest intervention so far, Mr Clinton said: "You can't say 'we'll talk and shoot - talk when we're happy and shoot when we're not'. Every political process in the world is a struggle for principled compromise, which means when it's over, no one is 100 per cent happy."

It was tragic for Northern Ireland "to move into the 21st century with the shackles of almost primitive hatred" raging between its peoples. But he stopped short of saying how quickly Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks if a ceasefire were announced. Mr Clinton said efforts to clinch a lasting peace could succeed only if there was an unequivocal ceasefire, in deed and in word.

"Again, I urge the IRA to lay down their guns for good. We have a new British Government that has taken what are, I think, wise and judicious steps and made statements that I think are clear, unequivocal and appropriate," he said. And while it was up to the parties involved to bring about a settlement, he promised: "We'll be there, active and involved, along the way."

Earlier Mr Clinton had become the first American president to nearly 30 years to address a British Cabinet, telling ministers that he had watched with enormous interest

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America's First Couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton, being welcomed at the steps of No 10 Downing Street by Tony and Cherie Blair yesterday

Yuppie soulmates take in dinner and a show

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Clintons came to London yesterday intent on having a ball. If was, after all, the last day of their European mini-break before having to return home and confront that unfortunate court business concerning Paula Jones.

It all went hugely well. Bill was among old buddies, the sun warmed the capital to a late spring simmer, no one threw him awkward questions about his past life, and he received a rare accolade for a visiting head of

state — a round of restrained and dignified table-thumping from the British Cabinet.

For a Government that does not object to being occasionally portrayed as a mite puritanical, even a touch Cromwellian, it was an expansive gesture indeed to an American soulmate of new Labour. Only John Prescott managed to maintain a steady glower throughout.

But a truer gesture of new-found Anglo-American solidarity occurred last night, when the Blairs took the

Clintons to dinner at the Pont de la Tour restaurant near the south side of Tower Bridge, an expensive establishment set up by Sir Terence Conran, whose prices even in normal times confine the clientele largely to successful young lawyers and media executives.

Air Force One touched down at Heathrow from The Hague at 10.20 in the morning, and an 12-vehicle motorcade, including three black bulletproof Cadillacs and the obligatory ambu-

lance, accompanied by a swarm of police outriders, drilled through the London traffic to deliver the Clintons at 10 Downing Street at 11.15, fifteen minutes ahead of schedule. The seasoned commuter knows that half-term week is a good time to drive in London. Had they arrived any earlier, they would have caught a Downing Street workman rolling out the red carpet and picking bits of fluff from it.

The Blair Government is a shirtsleeves, no-nonsense administration, and its headquarters are in a very

Continued on page 2, column 3

Scrawny cat of the lottery

The man who runs Spain's "El Gordo" lottery, the world's richest, earns £30,000 a year, compared with the Camelot Chief Executive, Tim Holey, who scoops a £590,000 salary package.

In a good year, Luis Perezaguas can also collect a profit-related bonus estimated at £6,000. Pages 11, 21

Al Fayed takes over Fulham

Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, became chairman and major shareholder of Fulham Football Club, which has just moved up to the second division.

He promised heavy investment "to restore the club to its former glory", including new players and improvements to the stadium.

During the "United Overseas Bank" takeover, the bank's share price fell to 100p. The bank's share price fell to 100p. The bank's share price fell to 100p.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Euro fear grows as Kohl's clash with bank widens

By PATIENCE WHEATCROFT
City Editor

THE future of the European economic and monetary union was hanging in the balance last night, as the controversy between the German Government and the Bundesbank appeared to intensify.

Although the European Commission is insisting that the move towards economic and monetary union will continue on schedule, bankers and politicians throughout Europe are increasingly sceptical that the current timetable can be met, and many feel that EMU may have to be abandoned, at least temporarily.

The likelihood of a Socialist Government taking control in France after Sunday's second round of balloting, coupled with the German debacle, is casting doubt on the whole question of monetary union, with many pundits now believing that a single hard currency looks impossible to achieve.

"The Bundesbank's move leaves EMU looking dead in the water," David Marsh, a German expert with the bankers Robert Fleming, said after talking to leading members of the Bundesbank's policy-making council in Frankfurt.

The German Government's efforts to re-value its gold reserves to meet the monetary stability criteria for entering EMU came under increasing criticism yesterday, both in Germany and abroad. In



If Kohl falls the whole EMU structure will crash down?

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Bundesbank, whose members have condemned it as "creative accounting" and "cooking the books". Yesterday the opposition Social Democrat Party called for Herr Waigel's resignation, saying his greed had ruined Germany's reputation as the champions of monetary stability.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, a former close ally of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, is said to be ready to resign if the Government insists on pressing ahead with the gold revaluation. Other Bundesbank directors, including Otmar Issing, an outspoken critic of the gold revaluation scheme, would almost certainly follow Herr Tietmeyer's lead, pushing the Chancellor's position further into crisis.

The Bundesbank has little to lose from the battle. In a fully fledged EMU, it would lose its power as a central bank. As one observer put it: "The members would be prepared to die for a good cause but they will not be sacrificed for a bad one."

Mr Clarke said he believed the Bundesbank's advice that the scheme should be abandoned was right and that the German Government should pay attention. "Politically, they would be unwise to charge ahead in the teeth of this kind of advice," he said.

But the official line from the European Commission is that the timetable for EMU re-

Continued on page 2, col 3

Slimming pills led depressed mother to theft, judge says

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN bank clerk who stole £2,300 while on slimming pills escaped jail yesterday after a judge criticised the pressures on women to stay thin.

Tania Kilford, 31, claimed her behaviour was altered by side effects from the slimming tablets she took while suffering post-natal depression. Judge Stephen Lloyd at Lewes Crown Court heard that Kilford, a TSB bank clerk from Portlisle, Sussex, was of "impeccable" character before coming under pressure to go back to work and lose weight after the birth of her second child.

The judge told her: "There was pressure upon you to return to work perhaps earlier than you would have wished

and earlier than was good for you ... it was added to considerably by that other modern pressure of being slim."

Kilford admitted two charges of theft, two of obtaining property by deception and asked for 25 other offences to be considered. She has since paid back all the money.

Andrew Collings, defending, said Kilford and her husband had no financial worries and did not need the items she bought, which included a lavatory. Her behaviour was "totally illogical", he said. "There was pressure put on her, not least by her husband, to regain her figure," he said. "She went to the Surrey Diet Clinic and was given prescribed drugs. She simply walked in off the street and explained the position and handed the money over. She was not at any stage given any advice about side effects nor that she should be monitored. She then began offending."

The judge said the thefts would normally merit a jail term but accepted the mitigating circumstances. Sentencing her to 180 hours' community service and to pay £220 costs, he said: "It's quite apparent to me that the combination of that depression with this drug did in my view lead you into totally unnatural behaviour."



Judge Lloyd: blamed pressure to be slim



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mowlam tells Sinn Fein to get moving

The Northern Ireland Secretary has ruled out protected negotiations between Sinn Fein and government officials on qualifications for the party's entry into the multiparty talks at Stormont. Mo Mowlam said yesterday that the current meetings with Sinn Fein could not go on indefinitely. "Tony Blair's position is clear that it won't, because we need to get moving," Dr Mowlam was on her first visit to Dublin since taking office, to meet Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister. They underscored the necessity of a cessation of terrorist violence ahead of Sinn Fein's entry into talks.

Firemen in race inquiry

Three firemen have been suspended and four others moved to other areas amid allegations of racism at Eltham fire station in southeast London. The entire Red Watch was disbanded after a visit by a sub-officer who saw racist posters and pictures displayed on the walls. One of the posters, daubed with the caption "muggers", was of a black Olympic athletics team. London Fire Brigade said an investigation was being held.

Australians' plea to Blair

The women forcibly sent to Australia as orphans 50 years ago want to see Tony Blair during their British visit for help in tracing their families. Sheila Pearce, who organised the visit of 40 women, said: "Mr Blair promised before he became Prime Minister he would help and there are thousands who need it." The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, met the women at Westminster Hall and said: "Your story has touched me very deeply."

Corn Exchange plans

The Corn Exchange in Manchester city centre, an Edwardian building badly damaged by the IRA bomb last June, is to be restored by its owners, Frogmore Investments. More than £1.7 million has so far been spent on emergency repairs, and Frogmore now plans to spend £5 million on fabric restoration. They hope to reopen the Corn Exchange in autumn 1998 as a mix of retail and food outlets, with a 170-bedroom hotel, a pub, restaurant, and a night club.

Servicemen handed over

Two British servicemen threatened with the cane for robbing a taxi driver of £19 in Singapore have been released into British military custody. Royal Marine Richard Britten, 22, from Plymouth, and Craftsman John King, 20, from Alford, Aberdeenshire, were accused of robbing the driver while on shore leave from HMS Galahad. If convicted, they faced at least 12 strokes of the cane and up to 14 years in prison.

No win, no fee tribunals

A London solicitor is setting up the first law firm dedicated to claims of discrimination and unfair dismissal on a contingency fee basis. Lawrence Davies says he will bring the industrial tribunal claims for no charge but take up to 30 per cent of damages he recoups. Contingency fees are generally prohibited for "contentious" litigation, but Mr Davies has discovered a loophole which defines industrial tribunal proceedings as non-contentious.

Ooh aah, £15,000

The last Manchester United shirt worn by Eric Cantona fetched £15,350 in an 11-hour radio auction. The Manchester station Key 103 sold the autographed No 7 shirt for the testimonial fund in aid of the Coventry City defender David Buist. A Greater Manchester family bought the top. A bid of £3,700 was made by 164 Liverpool supporters who wanted to burn the shirt.

Medics reluctant to stay

More medical students are considering leaving Britain after qualifying than at any time in the past. Twenty-five per cent are likely to go abroad or are thinking about doing so, according to a survey of students who qualified in 1993. A decade ago only one in ten considered leaving. The survey, in the *British Medical Journal*, found that one in ten had decided to leave, with one in seven unsure about staying.

Cattle markets criticised

Campaigners for animal welfare called for an independent inquiry into what they claim is the brutal and often illegal treatment of livestock at auction markets. Cattle, sheep and pigs are kicked, beaten with sticks, prodded with electric goads and held for hours in overcrowded pens without water, according to a report by Animal Aid, a charity that promotes vegetarianism.

Posthumous degree

A student is being awarded his degree in civil engineering posthumously by Teesside University. Jonathan Ingledew, 29, of Middlesbrough, died of a brain tumour in December, shortly before his final examinations. He had served seven years in the Army. Michael Sheffield, the Teesside Coroner, yesterday recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

Mutual praise at Cabinet marks new high in links between Britain and US
Leaders cement special relationship

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Bill Clinton lavished praise on each other yesterday as the President began his "day of fun" in London by addressing the Cabinet — an honour only previously given to President Nixon in 1969.

Mr Blair, with Mr Clinton on his right, said he hoped the visit would usher in "a new time of understanding and co-operation between our two countries, which have such strong bonds of history and heritage together."

"I want to say how absolutely delighted I am on a person-

al level to welcome you here because we believe that the courage and strength of leadership you have shown in the United States have brought enormous benefits not just to your own country but to the world."

In his opening remarks, which were televised, Mr Blair said Britain did not have to choose between a strong relationship with Europe and one with Washington. "I think the one strength deepens the other, a Britain that is leading in Europe is a Britain capable of ever-closer relations also with the United States of America," he said.

Mr Clinton, who began ap-

plauded as he entered the Cabinet room and shook hands with Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, before taking his seat, replied: "I agree that it is good for the United States to have a Britain that is strong in Europe and strong in its relations with the United States." Mr Clinton, the first foreign leader to telephone Mr Blair after his landslide victory, thanked him for being invited to address the Cabinet and said he admired the brisk start his Government had made.

"I have watched with enormous interest the energy and

vigour with which you have all taken office and the optimism with which you pursue it," Mr Clinton, seated between Mr Blair and Sir Robin, said. "This is a very exciting time and I am glad to be here."

The President, who flew to London after a Nato-Russia summit in Paris and a US-EU summit in The Hague, spoke of the need to "create within Europe a continent that is democratic, undivided and at peace for the first time ever". He said: "Europe has been periodically at peace but never all democratic and certainly never undivided."

Asked whether he had any advice for Mr Blair, Mr

Clinton joked: "He is doing very well. I would like to have a 179-seat majority. I am not going to give any advice. I am going to sit here and take it."

As his Cabinet ministers laughed, Mr Blair said he would like to emulate Mr Clinton, who easily won re-election last November. "I would like to make sure we have a second term of office," he said.

Mr Clinton had a special word for Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who is leading efforts to revive stalled talks over the future of the province. "I saw you on television last night being optimistic about peace in Ireland,

which is an article of faith in my life and household — so I like that," Mr Clinton said. After his brief remarks ministers banged the cabinet table with their hands to show their approval.

After reporters and cameramen were ushered out of the Cabinet Room, Mr Clinton stayed for more general political discussion with ministers. He disclosed that he had read Labour's election manifesto and policy documents, and echoed some of its phrases including "for the many not the few, the future not the past, leadership not drift" and agreed that education was a top priority.

LUKE PRAZZA



President Clinton at the Cabinet meeting with Tony Blair, John Prescott and Jack Cunningham. The President said he admired the energy of the new Government

Blairs and Clintons do dinner and a London show

Continued from page 1

narrow street. Only the first eight cars of the presidential motorcade managed to squeeze past the wrought iron gates, and then had enormous fun trying to turn round. The Cadillac Fleetwood will never catch on as a London taxi.

As Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton stepped from the limo, Tony and Cherie Blair were on the step to greet them. The President, still suffering from his fall during a night out with the boys, walked with a stick, an ornately carved item presented to him on a recent visit to Mexico. There were handshakes all round, but no kisses, no *mwah*, *mwah*, that one might expect from a meeting of four immensely successful yuppie lawyers.

Bill and Hillary looked entirely relaxed. Tony and Cherie a touch nervous. They lined up for the benefit of the monkey pen across the street, while the photographers shouted entreaties. "Stand closer together." "Stand on one leg, Bill."

After two minutes they all disappeared inside. There was speculation as to what they might be up to, given that they were all so obviously chummy: would Tony get out his guitar and Bill his sax to do a little jamming while the wives supplied duo-wah backing vocals? Not at all.

Mr Clinton was led into the Cabinet room and was invited to sit next to Mr Blair in the chair normally occupied by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. Mr Blair expressed his delight at his visitor's presence and the visitor, speaking off the cuff, said it was a great honour, and made complimentary noises about the new Government's energy, vigour and optimism.

Mr Clinton was asked what advice he would give the Government. "They're doing very well. I'd like to have a 179-seat majority. I'm not going to give advice. I'm going to sit here and get it."

The women, meanwhile, were up

to far more important business: lunch. Cherie took Hillary to No 11, where with only five close aides, including the US Ambassador's wife, they did a minimalist power lunch — sea bass followed by lemon tart, but no starters. They were in a rush, for at 1.15 they were off in one of the three Cadillacs to the Globe Theatre on the South Bank to see Henry V, or at least the first half of it. You cannot do a full-text version in an hour and ten minutes, and they left shortly after Henry had captured Honfleur.

Tony and Bill had half an hour of talks before they too adjourned for lunch. In the company of their respective ambassadors, and 15 other

officials, the men allowed themselves three courses: marinated and chargrilled vegetables, halibut, and fruit salad.

As lunch was in progress, the Blairs' three children suddenly emerged from the front door in the company of a nanny, were piled into a Ford Galaxy people-carrier from the government car pool, and were whisked away. Right kids, you've met the Clintons, now scam while mummy and daddy do some talking.

The bill for the evening is not known, but an average meal for two at the Pont de la Tour costs £120. Still, even a puritan government has to push the boat out now and again.

Clarke backs Bundesbank stand

Continued from page 1

meats intact, and yesterday this commitment was underlined by the unveiling of the new single currency coinage. It is being mined with a low nickel content, so that allergic reaction may be kept to a minimum.

Herr Kohl's commitment to economic and monetary union has been the driving force behind the move towards the single currency. Some economists believe that his determination could yet bring about some kind of EMU, but fear that it could be dangerous if countries rush to join before real monetary stability is achieved. In France, Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, has made clear that, if he wins power, he would not adhere to the strict financial criteria of the Maastricht treaty.

Earlier this week, Martin Taylor, the Barclays Bank chief executive who is an adviser to the British Government, issued a warning of the dangers of a loosening of the criteria for a move to a single currency. He said that if the politicians were not brave enough to scupper it, then the currency speculators should move into the financial markets and put paid to it. Last night he reiterated that view. "The idea that governments are always benevolent and markets always mischievous is mistaken," he said.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest bank, said he believed that the idea of monetary union was not yet dead. "There's obviously a strong commitment at the top levels in France and Germany for currency union to start on time, but

clearly what is happening in the French elections coupled with this rather public dispute in Germany raises doubts about whether, in practice, they are going to be able to find a satisfactory way through."

Last night Herr Waigel defended his Government's determination to go ahead with the revaluation, insisting that the resulting surplus would not go into Bonn's coffers but into the Inherited Debt Redemption Fund. The Bundesbank has agreed to this happening in 1999. "What is right in 1999 cannot be wrong in 1997 or 1998," Herr Waigel said.

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New partnership

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est "the energy and vigour with which you have all taken office".

The warmth in the two leaders' personal dealings was evident throughout the day from their greetings in Downing Street, their private talks, their press conference, and their appearance with their wives in a London restaurant last night.

There were plenty of jokes in public, and Mr Clinton suggested that he was there to listen to advice rather than to give it. His only public counsel was to tell the Prime Minister

to keep concentrating hard on the issues of most concern to voters and he had in the election campaign. "Relaxing concentration is fatal in this business."

And his statement that politicians should not promise more than they could deliver Mr Blair's mantra throughout the election campaign — was music to the Prime Minister's ears. He reacted with relish saying: "The progressive parties today are the parties of fiscal responsibility and prudence. You do not do anything for anybody by making a wreckage out of the economy."

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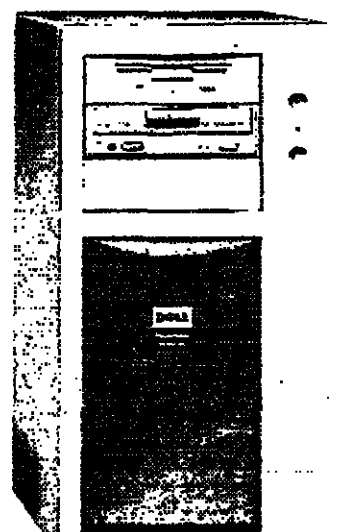
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Political wives go to see another young English leader prove himself, but they miss the ending

Cherie and Hillary show beats the Bard

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE faced some tough competition at the Globe Theatre yesterday. While the cast performed *Henry V*, two ladies seated in a box to the side of the stage performed a distracting double act that captivated the audience.

Cherie Blair and Hillary Clinton were said to have "got on like a house on fire" over lunch and by the time they reached the theatre were chatting animatedly. Downing Street said later that Mrs Clinton had been advising Mrs Blair on bringing up children in the public eye.

Mrs Clinton must have felt quite at home when she arrived at the Bard's reconstructed theatre. The place was full of folks from back home who had come to see the matinee, and were rather surprised to find their First Lady striding towards them across the foyer.

"Ah, Americanist," said a similarly astonished Mrs

Clinton in particular frequently craned to see the action on stage.

She would also have missed Zoe Wanamaker, daughter of the American actor Sam Wanamaker whose brainchild it was to rebuild the Globe, shedding sentimental tears before the performance began in an adjoining box.

Down in the yard with the groundlings who stood for the performance, and led the boos whenever the French characters came on stage, was the production's director, Richard Olivier, son of Lord Olivier. "I wasn't asked to meet them," he said cheerfully. "I think they wanted to meet children, not me."

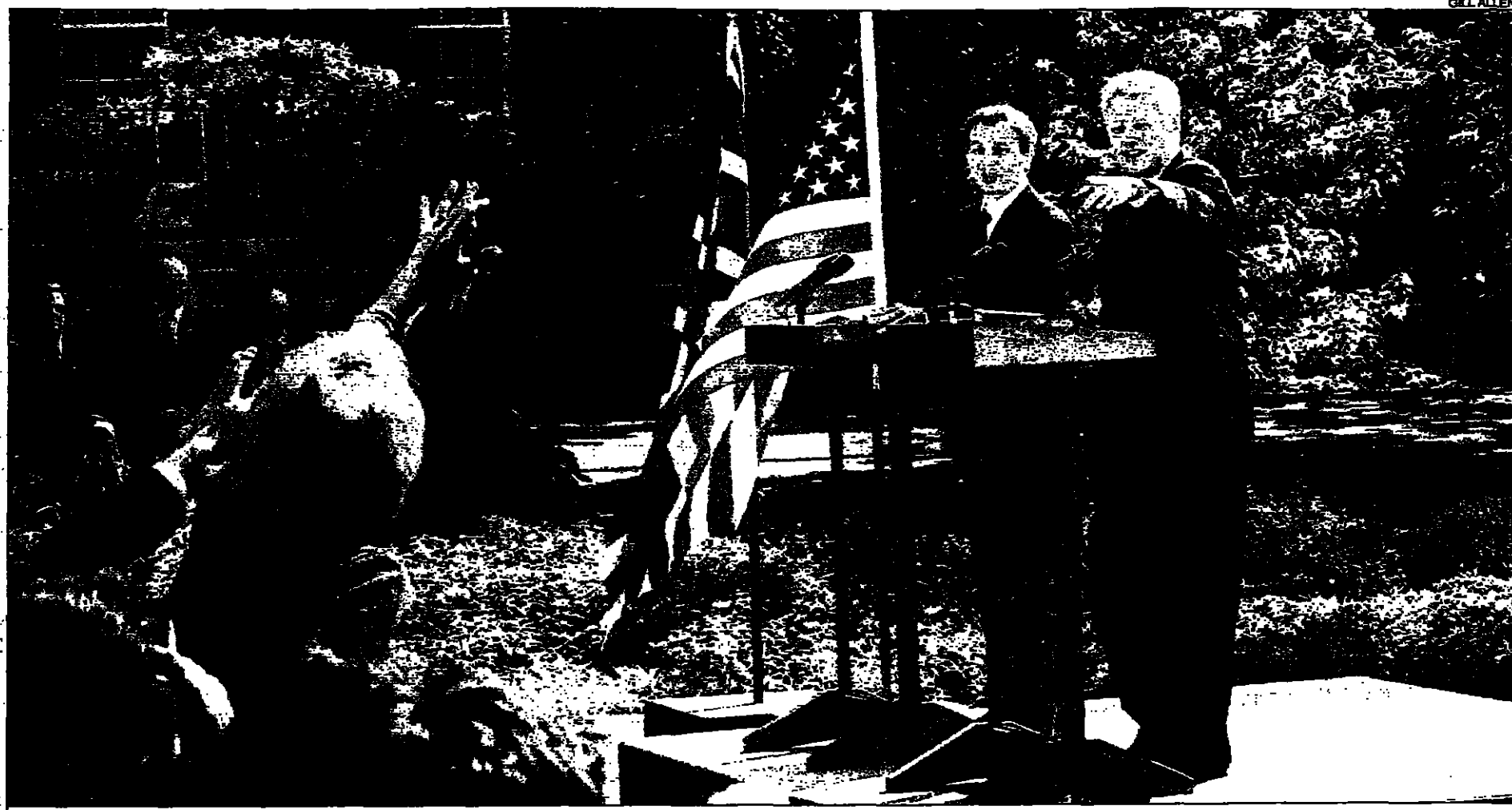
In hot sunshine more conducive to a post-prandial nap than sitting still under close scrutiny, the leading ladies did not let even the finest yawn escape during the hour of the show for which they stayed. Mrs Clinton laughed a lot but Mrs Blair did most of the talking between scenes. Mrs Clinton inched her chair closer to her new friend the better to hear.

The pair had lunched on sea bass and salad followed by lemon tart with just a couple of aides and Mrs Blair's sister Lindsay for company. A Downing Street spokesman said: "Mrs Clinton was full of sound advice about how to deal with the transition when you are also trying to raise children."

In their separate conversations, Mr Clinton told Mr Blair: "Make sure the children have space to lead as normal a life as possible, given the obvious constraints."

The Clintons have been dogged in preserving the privacy of their daughter Chelsea, who rarely appeared in public until last year when she went on tour to Eastern Europe with her mother and joined her father on the campaign trail. In her book *It Takes A Village* Mrs Clinton wrote: "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do matters very much."

There has been much media interest in the Blair youngsters — Evan, 13, Nicky, 11, and Kathryn, 9. Downing Street has already made an appeal to the media to respect the privacy of the children.



Mr Blair and President Clinton answering questions in the Downing Street rose garden yesterday. "Relaxed concentration is fatal in this business," Mr Clinton said

Outlook is rosy as Bill offers Tony a little honeymoon advice

The last time the press was called to the Downing Street rose garden was in 1995 when John Major stunned them by announcing that he was resigning the Tory leadership (Philip Webster writes). Yesterday it was all harmony as British and American

journalists assembled in the blazing sunshine to await the leaders. The Prime Minister and President Clinton posed for a while on the balcony, Tony Blair apparently pointing out to the President the features of the garden, and then they walked round

to their podiums, past a bird table. Keeping their jackets on, they took it in turns to invite questions. Mr Blair started by calling his guest President Clinton, but later he became "Bill". Mr Clinton was repeatedly pressed to give Britain's new Gov-

ernment advice, and eventually agreed to do so, noting that his own "honeymoon" in office had lasted about "35 seconds". The President said that "real people", who had to worry every day about how to feed and educate their children, wanted

to know that his government was "at the task", adding: "My only advice is to maintain the same level of concentration in administration that was shown by all of Labour in the campaign. Relaxed concentration is fatal in this business."

What a difference a good cut makes

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

ONLY seven years separate Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair, but yesterday their clothes revealed a gaping generational gap.

Both wore knee-length jackets, but what a difference in the cut. Were Diana, Princess of Wales, to stand next to the Queen, there could scarcely be a greater contrast of styles.

At 42, Mrs Blair looked

svelte and glamorous. The tailored frock-coat emphasised her slim waist and flattered her legs, flaring out to stop just above the knee. Mrs Clinton's coat appeared to have been cut to cover. Let anyone should catch a glimpse of her figure, she had buttoned it securely to the neck.

Even the colours smacked of different eras. While Mrs

Blair wore grey, one of this year's discreetly fashionable colours, Mrs Clinton went for blue. Blue may be the colour this summer, but the First Lady's choice was more from summers of the 1960s.

Both wore court shoes, but Mrs Blair's were a little higher, helping her to create a long, lean line. Not daring to bare, both had opted for nude-look summer tights. Mrs Clinton's appeared to have a gloss finish.

But if Mrs Blair looked the part of the first lady, it was Mrs Clinton who played it best. After 4½ years in the White House, she has perfected the distant expression and uncompromising wave. With her hesitant wave and meek smile, Mrs Blair looked more like a newly appointed head girl. While her husband changed for dinner, Mrs Clinton wore the same outfit.



Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair outside No 10

Eagle landed with mobile protection

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

IT TOOK 12 vehicles to get President and Mrs Clinton from Heathrow to Downing Street. While other long-suffering motorists were taking up to an hour or more to get to central London, the Clinton motorcade made the 17.7-mile journey in 35 minutes.

Courtesy of Metropolitan Police motorbike outriders, the presidential motorcade swept

task of protecting "The Eagle" and "The Evergreen", as Mr and Mrs Clinton are known to the Secret Service.

Heading the convoy was a Metropolitan Police Rover saloon containing armed officers from Scotland Yard's Special Escort Group. Other vehicles included a Metropolitan Police armoured-plated Daimler, crewed by officers from Special Branch's A Squad, responsible for protecting VIPs: the presidential limousine; a bomb-proof Cadillac; a black American pick-up crammed full of Secret Service men and women whose job is to put themselves between a potential assassin and the President and who had been given special permission from British authorities to carry their own weapons: a military ambulance and mobile hospital; and bringing up the rear, three press buses.

SECURITY

along in the outside lane of the M4. Then traffic at junctions was stopped as the vehicles passed, and on at least one occasion in central London the cavalcade crossed to the wrong side of the road to ensure that Mr and Mrs Clinton arrived on time at No 10.

The men and women who piled out of the motorcade when it arrived have the unenviable



on show

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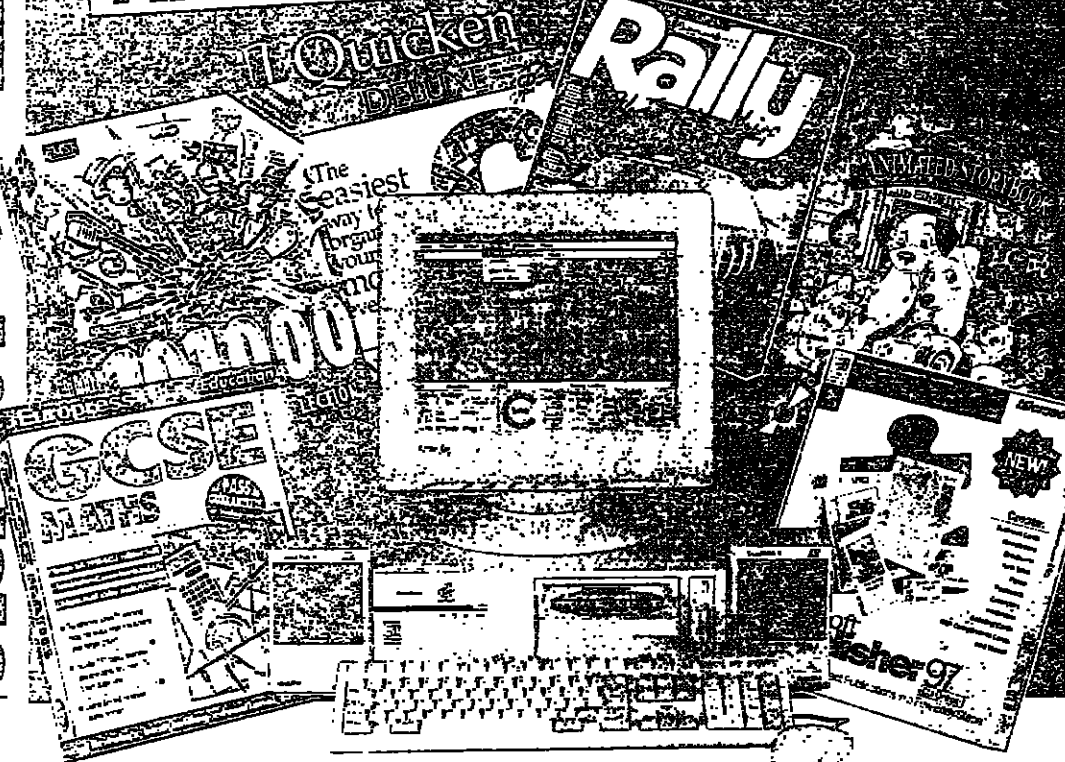
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Spiritual masterpieces emerge into modern world with £16m price tag

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MAGNIFICENT collection of medieval enamels, arguably the world's finest in private hands, is coming onto the market and could fetch more than £16 million.

Exquisite caskets, crosses and candlesticks from the 12th to 14th centuries are among 160 treasures that once adorned abbeys, churches and cathedrals throughout Europe. Nothing like this collection, amassed for a Swiss foundation by Edmund de Unger, a Hungarian baron who came to Britain in 1949, has appeared on the market for more than 25 years.

Some dealers and curators believe that the sheer number of outstanding pieces even overshadows the Victoria and Albert's Thomas à Becket casket, which dates from the same period and which fetched £4.18 million at auction last year. Many of Mr de Unger's pieces bear the same Limoges craftsmanship.

The Keir Collection, so-called because he once lived in a Wimbledon house with that name, will be sold by Sotheby's in New York in November. The treasures include a delicate 1220s Virgin and Child statuette carried as an icon in battle against the Moors in 1180s plaque from a metre-high cross that relates to two pieces in the British Library and one in the Vati-

can; and a 1200s gable-shaped plaque representing two martyred saints from a chasuble which is linked to an exhibit at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Sotheby's said it must originally have contained relics of the Four Crowned Martyrs.

Looking at the 1180s plaque, which depicts two angels, Mr de Unger said: "One of the beauties of medieval art is its spiritual art. Nothing sensual, which appeals to me. It has a harmony, a serenity, a silent dignity. It mirrors the belief of the people of the Middle Ages. We don't believe in anything. The age of belief is gone."

He said the collection was being sold because such pieces no longer appeared on the market. "Unless you can continue the collection and add to it, it becomes a dead, static collection."

Collecting was a disease, he said, but it was "the hunt" that most excited him. The idea of owning objects did not interest him, partly because his family lost everything in Hungary. He said that his treatment at the hands of the Communists — he was imprisoned several times — and his subsequent escape was too painful to discuss.

He would not reveal anything about the foundation, the Dominus in Zurich, beyond that it was private and

owned properties. He said that it had approached him after he discovered an important 15th-century Italian drawing. He began collecting at the age of 10; at 15, he bought a spectacular 14th-century carpet for just £4. "It is one of only nine in Turkey and two in Europe."

He added: "I read a lot and go to museums. You can develop an eye. But you must be born with an eye."

He explained that he used to contact the Foundation if he spotted something he thought was worth buying. He dismissed the suggestion that he was a dealer "because a dealer has stock"; instead, his career was as a barrister specialising in international law. He added that the sale proceeds might go to charity.

He was buying treasures when the rest of the art world showed relatively little interest. He sees himself as the saviour of many of the pieces: "The objects speak to you. They were crying out, 'Please rescue us.' I rescued many things."

Elizabeth Wilson, of Sotheby's, said: "This is an incredibly important collection. There isn't another with that number of objects. Such an amazing variety. There are objects in every category. Incense burners, chasubles or reliquaries, plaques, candlesticks, crucifixes."

Part of the collection was lent to the British Library from 1981 to 1982. Its curator, Neil Stratford, described the quality as remarkable: "It has some really wonderful pieces in it. The great strength of the collection is in the Limoges, although there are some other very good pieces."

The bulk of the collection was put together in the 1950s and 1960s by Ernst and Martha Koller-Truniger, of Lucerne, who had at one time also owned the Becket casket. In 1971 Mr de Unger acquired those holdings for a seven-figure sum in a private sale and then continued adding to it.

Charles Truman, a leading antiques dealer, said: "Without doubt, it is the most important collection of medieval enamels to come on the market since the Koller-Truniger sale."



Edmund de Unger with an 1180s plaque with two angels. "Medieval art is a spiritual art," he says



The Virgin and Child statuette from the 1220s was carried in battle against Moors

Fans rock the art world in Clapton auction

BY JOHN VINCENT

ONCE his fans could afford only a poster for their bedsit wall. Now some followers of the guitarist Eric Clapton have, like their hero, acquired a few expensive tastes. Interest from rock fans helped to push up prices yesterday as Christie's auctioned 31 items from his modern-art collection.

Clapton, 52, whose career began in the 1960s with groups such as the Yardbirds

and Cream, has several homes including a new property in Chelsea and a seafaring villa in Antigua, but he needs more space to freshen his collection. This meant parting with works by Degas, Severini, Utrillo, and Matisse.

The auction raised a total of £419,665. The first item, *Meditation*, by the Italian Sandro Chia, realised £37,300 against a pre-sale estimate of up to £30,000. The final lot, *Close By*, from the British artist Bridget Riley, fetched £36,700 rather than

the expected sum of between £15,000 and £20,000. For those with a little less to spend, a Matisse fetched £13,800 and a Degas went for £7,820.

A Christie's spokeswoman said: "The sale was a great success. It seemed to attract the interest both of Clapton fans and art lovers. Clearly, the fact that it was Clapton who was selling the pieces was of interest to some people."

Pop on Friday, page 35

Spice Girls' zig-a-zig-ah lyric wins song prize

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE Spice Girls were honoured with two songwriting awards yesterday for their No 1 hit *Wannabe*.

Their first hit single, best known for its "zig-a-zig-ah" refrain — "I wanna hah I wanna hah I wanna hah I wanna really really really wanna zig-a-zig-ah" — won Bestselling British Single and International Hit of the Year at the annual Ivor Novello Awards, which honours songwriters rather than performers.

The band arrived an hour and a half late and left the patiently assembled photographers fuming after turning up at a side entrance and refusing to pose for photographs.

Receiving their first award, Geri Halliwell asked the 500 music executives and musicians at the event to join her in singing *Happy Birthday* to Melanie Brown, the band member who celebrated her twenty-second birthday yesterday.

The band left the ceremony before picking up their second award, because they had to record a performance for tonight's *Top of the Pops*. Bill Wyman, the former Rolling Stone, was left to present the International Hit of the Year award to the girls' co-writers, Richard Stannard and Matt Rowe.

Songwriter of the Year went to George Michael, who also took the Most Performed Work award for *Fast Love*.

Alan Jackson, page 35

Minister calls for inquiry into silicone implant safety

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government ordered a review of silicone breast and lip implants or injections yesterday after hearing evidence that leakage from the treatment could cause serious illness.

Baroness Jay, the Health Minister, instructed Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, to launch an inquiry after she met Radford Shanklin, a professor from the University of Tennessee, who has conducted research since 1986 into silicone poisoning.

His findings were shown on BBC1's *Watchdog Healthcheck* yesterday. Baroness Jay said she was concerned that the programme showed many patients had been inadequately consulted about possible risks before agreeing to surgery.

About 5,000 women a year receive silicone implants in Britain. Others have injections to lips, cheeks or chins. There have been two government reviews of the treatment, in 1992 and 1994, but both reported that there was no evidence of any danger.

Professor Shanklin, however, claims that up to 60 per cent of the implants rupture spontaneously and that, after about 20 years, all of them will have leaked. "I have carried out autopsies on women who have died of this," he said. "I have found it [silicone] in the brain, in the heart, in the membrane surrounding the lungs, in the lymph nodes up and down the backbone and in the bone marrow. It migrates with the body fluid."

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Chapman, a former army medical doctor who is now a consultant plastic surgeon at St Thomas's Hospital in London, said British doctors were undecided: "Personally I would be a little reluctant to advise anybody close to me to have silicone implants."

The *Watchdog* survey found that 73 per cent of women who had had im-

plants were not warned of the dangers of silicone leakage; that 63 per cent now thought implants should be banned; and 57 per cent regretted having had the operation.

Margot Cameron, 43, who founded Silicone Support UK a year ago to help women who have suffered ill-effects after the treatment, is now waiting for a lip amputation operation to remove the silicone remaining in her lips after injection by a Harley Street doctor in 1990.

"My fiancé paid £800 so that I could have it," she said last night. "I had thin lips and wanted something to put my lipstick on. For a few months I was very happy with it and then it all started to go wrong. I developed the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, rashes, fatigue, itchy scalp, blue feet, ringing in the ears, muscle spasms, palpitations and mouth ulcers. The list was endless."

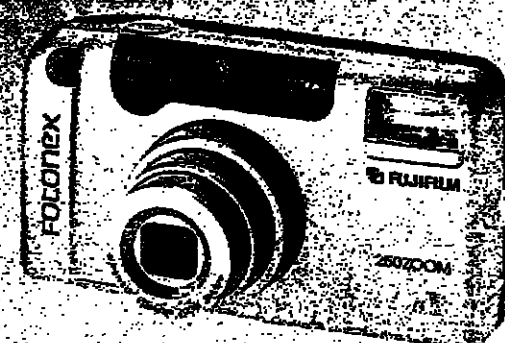
"They said nothing was wrong with me and tried to put me on anti-depressants, but I decided to fight because I knew I had nothing wrong psychologically. I was clearly suffering from an organic illness. I cancelled my engagement and went to stay in America near my brother."

"There doctors treated me for free and I discovered that the silicone had leaked out of my lips all over my body and was poisoning me. Now I do not dare have a boyfriend and kiss him because any pressure on my lips would be dangerous."

Ms Cameron said she had been told that the only way to remove the silicone was to have her lips amputated and then reconstructed using the lining of her cheeks.

She returned to Glasgow just over a year ago and formed her organisation, which has been recognised by the Charity Commission. There are 1,000 women members, who claim they have been poisoned by their implants or injections.

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Rifkind urged to lead breakaway party in Scotland

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Scottish Tory called yesterday for the creation of a separate Conservative Party north of the border to be led by Malcolm Rifkind, the former Foreign Secretary.

Brian Meek, leader of the Conservative group on Edinburgh council, said that the party, possibly called the New Scottish Tories, should have separate funding, a separate manifesto and its own leader. The new party's MPs would take the Tory whip at Westminster as a sister party to the English Tories.

Mr Meek, who is on the left of his party, said that if his proposal split the Tories in Scotland and led to his supporters standing as candidates against Tories who remained with the London-based party, it would dismay him but it would be "a risk worth taking".

Mr Meek was a member of Mr Rifkind's campaign team in Edinburgh Pentlands, which Mr Rifkind lost to Labour on May 1. During the

election campaign Mr Rifkind spoke of the dangers of devolution but he has softened his stance in recent days.

Using his column in the Glasgow newspaper *The Herald*, Mr Meek also derided the contenders to succeed John Major. "We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by going for a separate Scottish identity," he wrote. "We have nobody to please but our electorate."

"We need a new party with a changed name, linked but not handcuffed to the English Conservatives. It would be a party which... elected all its office-bearers and wrote its own contract/manifesto with the Scottish people." Mr Meek said that he was "sick of losing" and that the Tories in Scotland faced the "threat of extinction". He urged Scottish business to fund the new party, so as to have a voice in a Scottish parliament.

He dismissed John Redwood's opposition to constitu-

tional change in Scotland and said: "Messrs Lilley, Dorrell and Hague have made it plain they are about as well-briefed on Scottish affairs as they are on Mongolian watercolours."

He has limited hopes of Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, saying that the imposition of VAT on fuel was "so unpopular in Scotland that it made the poll tax look like a roaring success".

The call for a breakaway has infuriated leaders of the Scottish Conservatives, who have called for a moratorium on discussions ahead of the Scottish party conference in Perth next month. One said: "Brian Meek's call is unhelpful and insensitive. It looks like self-promotion."

Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Scottish party, said: "The view expressed by Brian Meek is only one among many proposals which indicate the prospect of a stimulating and constructive debate at the conference in June."



Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Scottish Tories, said that their conference would discuss various proposals

Ancram support gives Hague campaign a lift

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE received a welcome boost to his flagging leadership campaign yesterday when Michael Ancram, the former Northern Ireland Minister, pledged his support.

Mr Hague's campaign had suffered a setback after a speech last week that was widely interpreted as an attack on John Major. But Mr Ancram's decision to back the former Welsh Secretary was seen by other campaign teams as a significant coup.

Mr Ancram is a centrist MP and has none of the right-wing trappings of other members on Mr Hague's team. His endorsement will allow the youngest leadership contender to claim cross-party support and present himself as a unity candidate.

"I am convinced that he is the man best equipped to fight the next election," Mr Ancram said yesterday. He added that Mr Hague alone had the ability to bring the Conservatives through a period on the Opposition benches and back to Downing Street.

"It is a long road ahead. He brings freshness, dynamism and the courage to grasp

difficult nettles such as party organisation and the review of policy."

Tonight Mr Hague, back from a two-day break, will try to move up a gear with a hard-hitting speech to constituency activists in Manchester. He will announce details of a huge structural shake up in the party organisation, including changes in the selection of candidates, agents and leadership rules.

The endorsement from Mr Ancram came as all six candidates stepped up their campaigning, each staking their claim to be the most effective Opposition leader.

Michael Howard, whose campaign lost momentum after the broadside from Ann Widdecombe, made a keynote speech to the Bow Group last night claiming that Tony Blair had made "ten blunders" in his first month of office. They included letting the Bank of England set interest rates; banning cigarette advertising; holding referendums on devolution before full details had emerged about the Scottish parliament; and changing Prime Minister's question

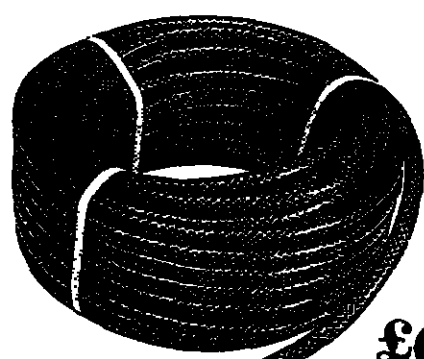
time to a half-hour slot on Wednesdays.

Mr Howard broadened his speech to warn against abandoning core Conservative beliefs or values in an attempt to win back power. In what was seen as a sideswipe against Kenneth Clarke, who has talked about new Conservatism, Mr Howard said the Tories could only learn techniques, not political salvation, by studying new Labour.

Stephen Dorrell meanwhile claimed that Mr Blair's honeymoon was over as he stepped up his campaign with a speech in Stratford-upon-Avon. He accused Labour of betraying Britain within its first month in power. It was "trampling roughshod over the delicate checks and balances of our unwritten constitution".

Peter Lilley last night launched a regional tour in Leeds. His team believe they are gaining ground from Mr Hague and that the main threat now is from Mr Clarke. They privately admit that Mr Clarke is likely to lead in the first ballot, and possibly the second, resulting in a run-off with Mr Lilley.

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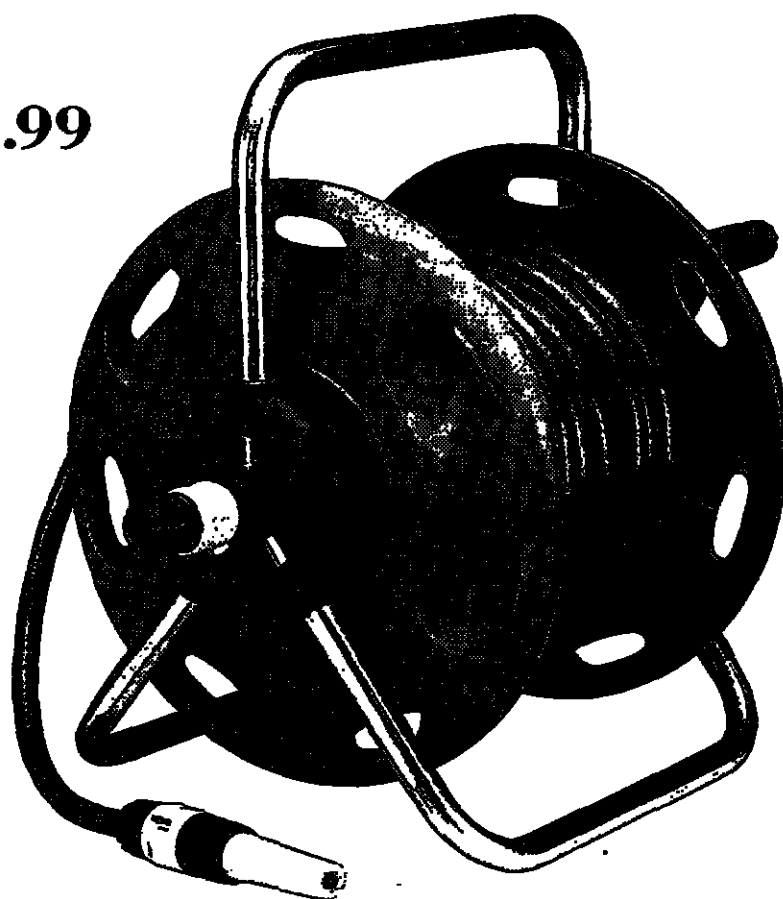


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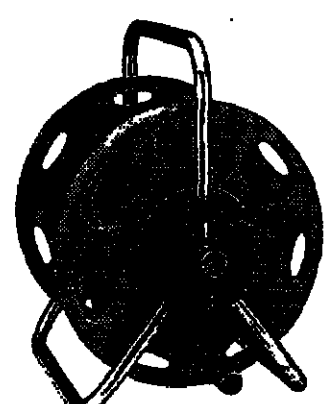


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Dr Thomas Stuttaford

BOB DYLAN is reported to be suffering from pericarditis, an inflammation of the membranous bag that contains the heart within the chest, as a result of infection with histoplasmosis. This is an infectious disease caused by bacteria or viruses but by one of the systemic fungal diseases.

Such systemic fungal diseases — affecting deep-seated organs — are rare in Britain in patients whose resistance to infection has not been lowered by other conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung infections, chronic malignant disease, renal disease, TB, alcoholism, persistent drug abuse or, in recent years, Aids. Treatment with some prescribed drugs, in particular steroids, can also predispose patients to the infection.

Until Aids became comparatively common, very few British doctors would ever have been confronted with a case of histoplasmosis but in patients with Aids a widely disseminated infection with histoplasma is often the terminal event.

In parts of the United States, histoplasmosis has always been more common, especially in the eastern states and the Mid West, particularly in large river valleys. The initial infection, caught by inhaling dust containing the spores of the fungus, usually settles in the lungs. The symptoms — cough, fever, weight loss — are similar to other chest infections and have to be distinguished from TB and other causes of bronchitis, pneumonia and upper respiratory tract disease. Diseases such as sarcoidosis and Hodgkin's can also be confused with histoplasmosis but the diagnosis is confirmed by growing fungus from the patient's spit, lymph glands, or ulcers, in the laboratory.

Sometimes it is localised to the lungs where, like TB, it can cause cavitation and fibrosis — destruction of lung tissue and scarring. In some cases the 'histoplasma fungi' are carried from the lungs in the bloodstream to other organs,

usually the liver, the spleen, lymph glands or the gut. If the disease spreads to the root of the lungs, it can cause severe fibrosis.

In Dylan's case it has apparently spread to the covering of the heart, the pericardium. Such inflammation is a very rare complication in what is usually a rare disease.

Once histoplasmosis has spread, amphotericin is the anti-fungal drug of choice but it has to be given intravenously. Side effects are common and the treatment is not without risk. Such troubles as diarrhoea, nausea, headaches and joint pains can be tolerated but the patient's general condition has to be carefully monitored. Blood has to be checked regularly to see that liver and kidney functions are not dangerously reduced.

Amphotericin can also damage the heart and some patients have an acute allergic reaction. The speed and extent of a patient's recovery depend on the general state of health and the presence of any underlying disease or condition that might affect their resistance. Treatment with amphotericin is usually effective in ridding the body of the organism but cannot redress any damage that it may already have caused.

A long convalescence is needed to restore general health.



Dylan: would need long convalescence

Silence continues as stars visit hospital

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BOB DYLAN'S condition remained a mystery yesterday as his manager and record company refused to comment.

The singer was taken to hospital on Wednesday, just days before a British tour was due, after being struck down by histoplasmosis, a potentially fatal infection caused by fungus in the coronary sac.

Calls to Jeff Kramer, Dylan's manager in Los Angeles, were diverted to Columbia Records, whose spokesman said only that he was "being well looked after". All the main New York

hospitals denied that Dylan had been admitted into their care. However, a number of rock stars, including Bruce Springsteen, were spotted at the city's Cornell Medical Centre, raising speculation that they may have been visiting him.

Doctors said that the illness could be exacerbated by a run-down condition. Like many from the 1960s counterculture, he has been a smoker and drinker and has used hallucinogenic substances, all of which can weaken resistance to a coronary fungus.

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Have a picnic and you'll find it'll rain, so you can toss the sodden tablecloth into the waterproof compartment and cover it up with the lid.

If you'd rather get drenched voluntarily, you can order the CR-V's optional shower. (Yes, a shower.) If you're partial to a chilled drink or two, you can opt for the fridge.

And if you'd like some shelter from the sun or the rain, you can choose the optional canopy, under which you can enjoy your canapés.

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There's a power socket in the luggage compartment, which you can use to power your fridge, or shower, or air-bed pump, or what have you.

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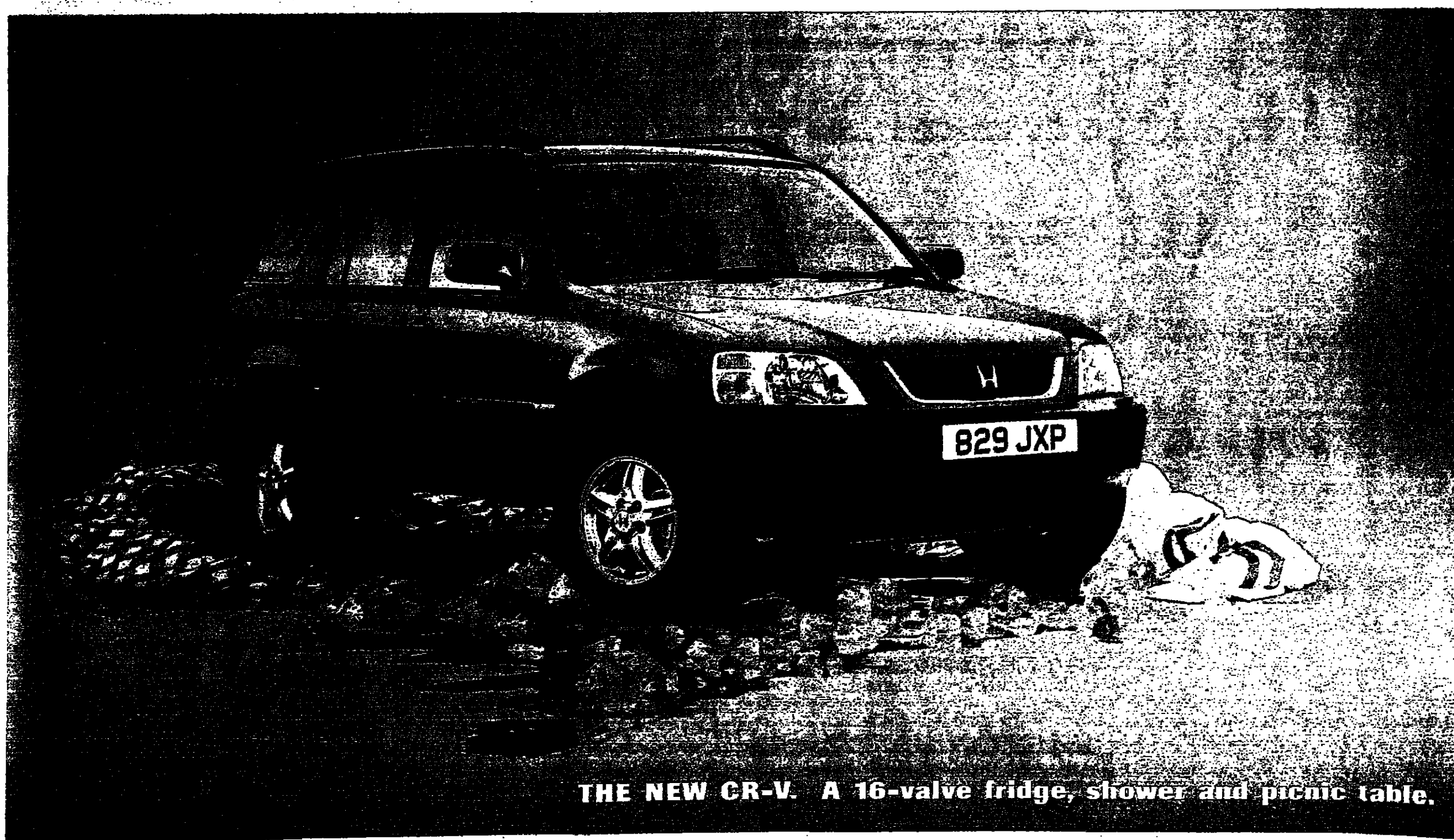
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8 HOME NEWS

School task force sets the Saint against the Demon

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Education Secretary, will today announce a new task force on raising school standards, headed by two deeply opposed figures, regarded by teachers as a demon and a saint.

Mr Blunkett will chair the body, but has chosen as his deputies Chris Woodhead, the man demonised by teachers for his tough stance on standards and calls for traditional teaching, and Tim Brighouse, a hero to many teachers because of his pioneering methods as chief education officer in Birmingham.

Professor Brighouse has been one of the chief critics of Mr Woodhead's Ofsted, which he described in January as "a reign of terror".

Mr Blunkett will make the announcement at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Scarborough. The exact relation of the new body to Ofsted and to the Government's new standards and effectiveness unit, set up three weeks ago, was unclear last night, but friends of Mr Woodhead said he was prepared for a fight to preserve Ofsted's independence.

Both men will remain in their posts but head teachers yesterday saw the plan as an attempt to control Mr Woodhead. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's spokesman on education, said Mr Woodhead's wings had been clipped. The chief inspector was criticised last year by the Institute of Education, the country's foremost teacher training centre, for "political bias" in his reports.

Earlier this year he suggested extra league tables and



Professor Tim Brighouse, 57, represents the education establishment which Chris Woodhead criticises for its "woolly" thinking. A former deputy education officer at the Inner London Education Authority, he successfully sued John Patten, the former Education Secretary, for calling him "a nutter". Mr Patten agreed in the High Court in 1994 to apologise and pay damages of about £50,000. Professor Brighouse is seen as being rewarded for pioneering Labour education policies in Birmingham, including testing for five-year-olds in their first term. He proposed putting the names of successful teachers on the back of buses. He said yesterday: "I consider this [appointment] a reflection of people wanting to bring into the sunlight the energy and skilful practices of staff in Birmingham's schools."



Chris Woodhead, 50, has waged a personal crusade against incompetent teachers during his three years as Chief Inspector of Schools which has not endeared him to the profession. As an English teacher at the start of his career, colleagues said he espoused the trendy methods he would later condemn. A former teacher trainer and education officer in Devon and Cornwall, he became chief English adviser in Shropshire. There he became convinced of the importance of traditional grammar. He dismisses much that is written by education academics as "woolly, simplistic, or otherwise corrupt". But his blunt re-writing of some inspection reports, such as last year's damning survey of English teaching in three London boroughs, led to claims that he was a "political poodle" of the Conservative Government.

rag to a bull. A more considered reaction would be that this is the Government's way of bringing the chief inspector under more direct control. Whether it stops him behaving as a loose cannon, only time will tell.

"The last thing we want to see is a task force which is a vehicle for peddling Chris Woodhead's particular beliefs. Thank goodness his appointment is balanced by that of Tim Brighouse. His presence will provide some reassurance that we are not going to see an attempt to impose particular teaching methods."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "As with all task forces, judgment has to be reserved until we see the product. Providing support for schools will certainly be a challenge for Mr Woodhead."

Mr Foster said: "This is a clear attempt to rein in Chris Woodhead, to require that, before he makes any of his over-the-top remarks, he has to discuss them with other senior people first."

A school in north London yesterday became the first failing school to be closed by the Government. St Richard of Chichester, a Roman Catholic secondary school in Camden, is to close next summer.

Education officials in Camden applied in January to close the school, which fell into a spiral of decline after being judged as failing three years ago. Inspectors found that pupils' behaviour was disruptive, classes were of a low standard and attendance was poor. Ten per cent regularly skipped lessons, placing the school in the bottom six for attendance in the country.

Leading article, page 21



Children during prayers at Wycliffe Middle School in Shipley, west Yorkshire

Heads seek to abolish daily acts of worship

By DAVID CHARTER

HEAD teachers promised yesterday to press for the abolition of daily prayers because schools feel it is hypocritical and impractical to enforce worship. A succession of heads, including the chairman of the Association of Christian Teachers, spoke against the law which requires a daily act of worship.

Last year 90 per cent of primary schools and 23 per cent of secondary schools obeyed the law, down from 100 per cent at primaries and 60 per cent at secondaries in 1993.

Chris Nye, head of Park Primary School in Gloucester, said: "My father was an archdeacon, my uncle's a bishop and my brother-in-law is a vicar. None of them goes to an organised act of worship every day."

Diana Wayne, head of Cardew Junior School in Cornwall, proposed abolition for a variety of reasons, including unease over "indoctrinating" children. "We have a rota of volunteer children who read a prayer of their choice. It is very contrived."

Simon Marsh, chairman of the Association of Christian Teachers, called for debate across all faiths on new guidance for worship in schools. "Worship is a voluntary act of homage and love given to the God one freely serves. I am convinced that to enforce a hypocritical act does more harm to faith than almost anything else," he said.

Liz Paver, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said she would make abolition her personal aim during her year in office.

Dons prepare to vote against revised plans for Oxford business studies

By MARK HENDERSON

OXFORD University faced fresh hostility yesterday to its plans to build a £40 million business school partly funded by a Syrian-born millionaire after a compromise scheme was announced.

Dons who blocked moves to site the Wafic Rida Said Business School on a sports field in central Oxford said that they were not satisfied with the university's re-

vised plans for the school, which would now be built on a disused goods yard near the railway station. The university is hopeful that its revised blueprint, published in full in the *Oxford University Gazette* today, will meet the concerns of most dons about the protection of green space.

Fellows are to vote on the new plans in Congregation on June 17. Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Peter North, said: "I hope the university

will unite to show its commitment to making management studies an additional focus for Oxford's tradition of academic excellence."

The original proposal to build the school on the Merton College sports ground in Mansfield Road was rejected by Congregation, the university's parliament, by 259 votes to 214 in a heated debate last November. Many dons opposed the use of a greenfield site which was given to the university in 1964

on the condition that it remain a sports ground in perpetuity. Others expressed concerns about the school's accountability, the secrecy with which the plans were developed, and Mr Said's alleged involvement in arms-dealing.

Mr Said, who lives in Britain, has threatened to withdraw his £20 million donation if a home for the school is not found by June 21. He said: "I hope that the new site will provide a better foundation

upon which to build broad support for the new school."

Dr Alexander Murray, a medieval history fellow at University College and a leading opponent of the school, said that although the site was more appropriate there were still serious constitutional obstacles to accepting the plan. Dr Murray said it remained unclear how strong Mr Said's representation would be on the board of trustees. "We have to accept that if

we don't have overall control we lay ourselves open to excessive influence from people with slightly different motives to us," he said.

Mr Said had originally hoped to appoint six of the ten trustees, and it is understood he agreed to two independent trustees, to allay the concerns of fellows about the business school's accountability to the university.

Dr Mike Woodin, a psychology don at Balliol College and a Green

Party city councillor, said the compromise did not resolve his doubts about the school. "There will still be concerns about the degree to which Mr Said will have control over the business school's activities," he said. "We will fight to be sure there are no strings attached to the donation."

The land on the station forecourt has long been disused and has previously attracted proposals for hotels and a science park to be built.

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Remains of 'first European' found in Spanish cave

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND GILES TREMLETT

HUMAN remains said to be the oldest in Europe have been found in a cave at Atapuerca in northern Spain. The species, which its finders believe existed 800,000 years ago, may have been an ancestor of both Neanderthal Man and modern human beings.

The find almost doubles the known length of time that human beings have existed in Europe. A team led by Dr Antonio Rosas, of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid, has named the species *Homo antecessor*.

Several segments of bone and teeth have been found, but the team's evidence is based primarily on a single facial bone from a boy, and other palaeontologists may be reluctant to accept a new species on such slender data. "We think we have enough information to define it in the proper sense of a new species," Dr Rosas says in *Science*. "But people are probably going to need

some time to accommodate this proposal."

If accepted, the find will further complicate the prehistory of man. Until now *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthal Man were believed to be descended from a species called *Homo heidelbergensis*, which lived half a million years ago. Boxgrove Man, found in West Sussex in 1994, is an example of this species.

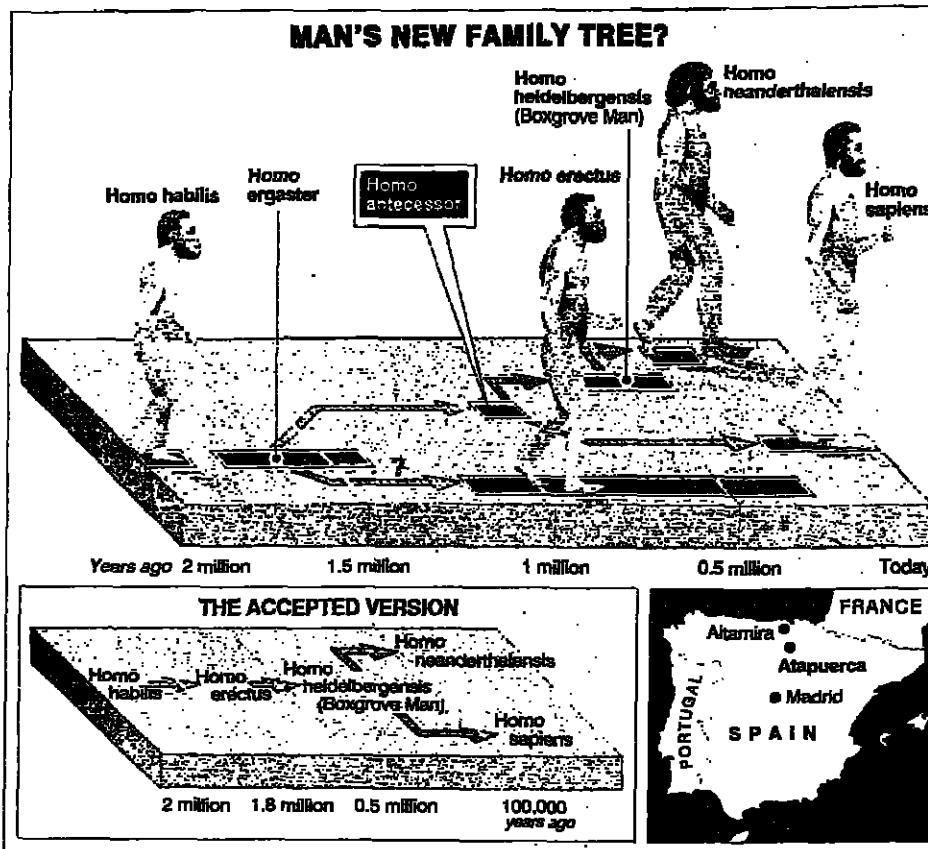
But the Spanish team believes their species has more in common with modern man than does *heidelbergensis*, and is older. They say that it evolved in Africa, probably about a million years ago, and began to spread north into Europe. "What we have done is confirm that humans have been here in Europe for nearly one million years," said José María Bermúdez de Castro. "Others have argued that man has only been in Europe for around half a million years. But we believe we have intro-

duced new stability into the evolutionary scheme."

The fossils were found in a cave at Gran Dolina in the Atapuerca hills. The caves were exposed by railway workers in the 19th century, but not explored until 1994. The fossils have been dated, by the magnetisation of the layer of limestone in which they were found, to 780,000 years ago.

The most striking find, said team co-leader Juan Luis Arsuaga, of the University Complutense in Madrid, was the face of the boy. It had modern features, such as sunken cheekbones with a horizontal ridge where the upper teeth attach, and a projecting nose and mid-face. "We realised straight away it was modern-looking."

At the same time, it had archaic features such as a prominent brow ridge. This unusual combination of the old and new encouraged them



to believe that the bones came from a distinct species.

Palaeoanthropologists canvassed by *Science*, which publishes the description of the fossil today, were sceptical. "Given the evidence, I'm reluctant to endorse a new species," said Dr Philip Rightmire, of the State University of New York. Jean-Jacques Hublin, of

the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, took a similar view.

Soft tissue from a dinosaur has been found well-preserved in rocks in another part of Spain, a team led by Professor Derek Briggs, of the University of Bristol report, in the *Journal of the Geological Society*. It is only the second

time that skin has been reported. The bird-like species, *Pelecanimimus polydon*, lived 130 million years ago. It was preserved in fine limestone deposits. The fossils show wrinkles on the dinosaur's hide, a crest on its head and a pouch under its chin.

Photograph, page 24

Authorities criticised for Sea Empress spill

An independent analysis of the *Sea Empress* oil spill off Milford Haven in February last year calls for increased environmental protection from such disasters. It also says industry, government agencies and local authorities should be made more accountable when decisions affecting environmentally sensitive areas are taken.

Dr Neil Caldwell, former director of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, and Dr Clive Morgan, former director of the Oil Pollution Research Unit, are highly critical of the authorities' handling of the crisis and the damaging delay in refloating the vessel. They also criticise environmental pressure groups for exploiting the incident for their own publicity.

ChildLine calls fall

Calls to ChildLine's special line for children in care have fallen by about 80 per cent in the past three years. The line is for complaints of sexual abuse by foster parents, care workers or others in residential care. Of 1,614 children in local authority care who called in 1995-96, 35 said they had been sexually abused by carers, 20 out of 1,130 in residential homes and 15 out of 484 in foster care. Some called because they were physically assaulted or bullied while others said they felt unloved and unwanted.

Hunter in lions' den

A Royal Navy frigate that was designed to hunt Russian submarines visits Russia's huge submarine base at Murmansk today. The invitation to *HMS Iron Duke* to the headquarters of the Northern Fleet is the latest barrier to be removed between the Russian military and the West. The Type 23 frigate, the Navy's most advanced anti-submarine ship, will be open to visits from Russian submariners for five days and will later take part in an exercise with units from the Northern Fleet.

Hull and high water

Scientists from Hull University have been awarded £26,000 by the Natural Environment Research Council to carry out DNA tests on South Atlantic squid from waters around the Falkland Islands, to discover whether overfishing has affected their genetic variability. This would reduce their ability to adapt to environmental changes. Squids are a food source for birds and whales, and licensed squid-fishing by foreign nations is a vital part of the Falklands economy.

Police check car tints

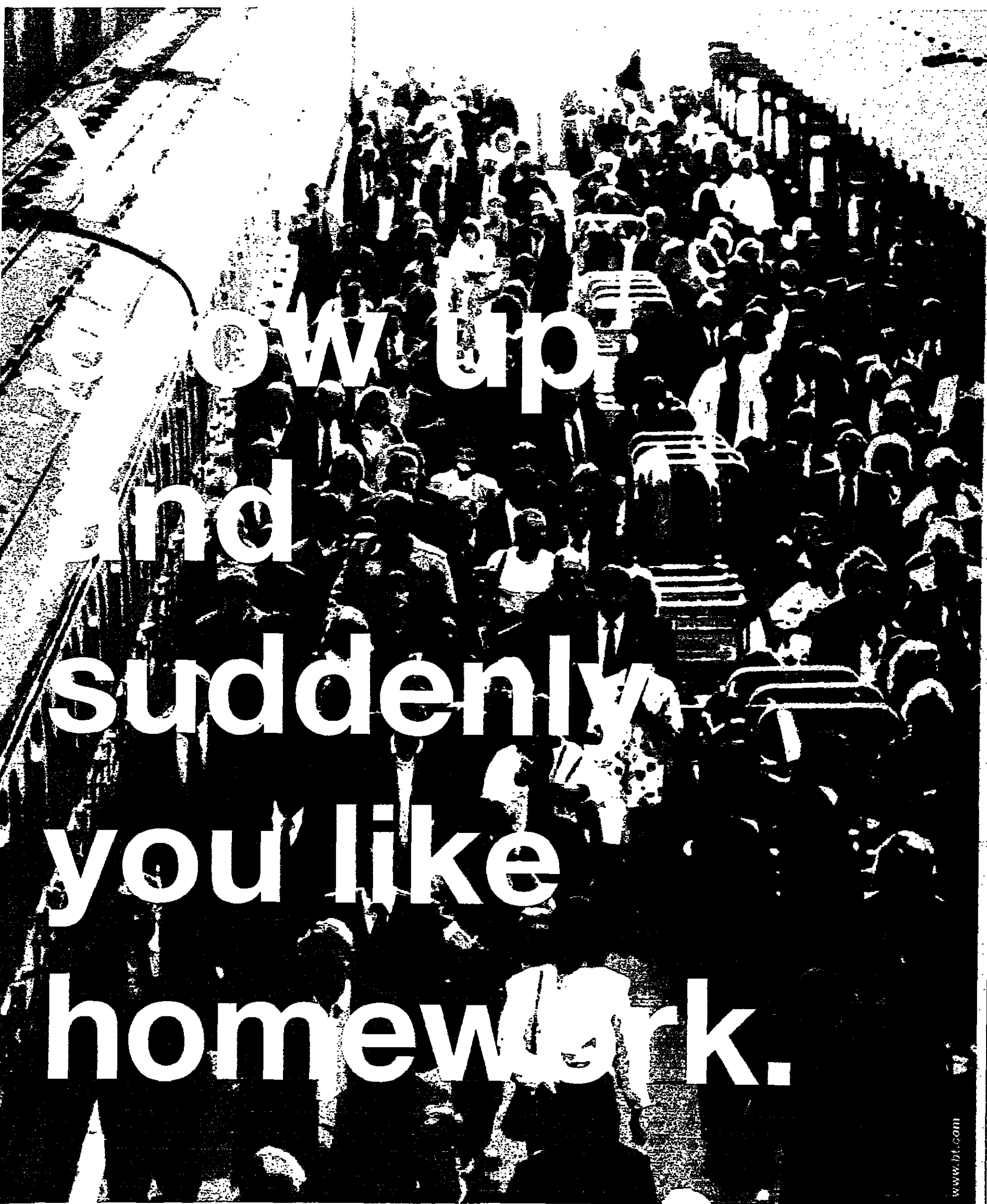
Tinted windows for cars are to be tested to check whether they are clear enough to allow safe driving. Special equipment has been developed by police concerned by the safety implications of tinted glass, and a trend among criminals to use darkened glass to hide their identities. South Yorkshire Police, which helped to design the TintMan meter, will start checks from Monday. Drivers will be told to remove the tint immediately or face a £20 fixed penalty or a summons.

Aspirin best for strokes

Aspirin is the best available treatment for strokes, a trial involving 40,000 patients, half of them in China, has found. Researchers compared it with heparin, a fast-acting anti-coagulant which can cause nose bleeds and bruising. Dr Peter Sandcock, of the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, concludes in *The Lancet* that use of aspirin should be considered for patients suffering from a stroke caused by a blood clot. Long-term low dosage after an attack improved a patient's chances of avoiding another.

Fog delays Pole pick-up

The British team of women polar trekkers was stranded at the North Pole after dense fog prevented aircraft from reaching them. Two aircraft had been due to pick up the four women after they had completed the final leg of the 1,000-kilometre marathon early on Tuesday. They were said to be in good spirits and had enough supplies for four days. It was hoped that the weather would clear sufficiently for them to be picked up within hours.



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Lottery chief delays showdown over pay rises

Chris Smith says that Camelot must clean up its act or risk losing its contract. Carol Midgley and Stephen Farrell report on government anger over directors' bonuses

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, chairman of the National Lottery operator Camelot, was forced yesterday to delay a showdown meeting with the Government over huge executive pay rises because he is overseas working for another company.

Sir George, who was caught off guard by the unexpected leaking of the figures to a trade magazine, will now meet the National Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, on Monday after being summoned for urgent talks.

He will fly back today from America, where he was said to be on business unrelated to Camelot. His other roles include the chairmanship of venture capital company 3i and a non-executive directorship of Northern Rock. He retired as chairman of the building materials group Marley earlier this month.

At Monday's meeting Sir George will be asked to explain why directors received rises of up to 90 per cent when lottery ticket sales have slumped, and contributions to lottery good causes have dropped by £143 million.

Camelot risks having its

licence terminated early after Mr Smith yesterday accused its directors of profiteering. He said he was "very angry" about the massive pay increases awarded to directors and was considering the feasibility of buying out Camelot's contract, which is due to expire in 2001.

Mr Smith expressed frustration that, under the terms of their contract, the directors were legally entitled to reap such rewards. But he added that to buy out Camelot early would be hugely expensive to the taxpayer and therefore unlikely. Legally the company would have to be compensated for the millions of pounds it had invested in machinery and promotions which would incur huge costs.

But such is the Government's anger at the "fat cat" rises that Mr Smith said he would "need to consider that as a possible option". He said his first weapon in persuading Camelot to lower its directors' pay rises would be to tell them that they would lose public confidence in the lottery. "I will say to them, 'Look, this is the people's lottery, if the people don't have confidence in it, they're not going to play it and give you these profits.' They don't seem to know this, because they aren't acting as if they do."

His second weapon would be to warn Camelot that it might not be considered for the lottery contract when it is renewed. "I will say to them, 'If you want any hope whatsoever of competing in the future, then you have got to clean up your act now.'"

Mr Smith said Camelot had been within its rights to make the increases, although the Government would be bringing forward legislation later this year to turn the lottery into a non-profitmaking organisation. "Unfortunately they



Under fire: Tim Holley, left, with consultant Don Stamford and Camelot operations director David Clark, right

are operating under a contract," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "They are legally entitled to do this. This is part of the mess we have inherited. It is precisely why we want to go for a not-for-profit lottery in the near future, and are bringing forward legislation to do so."

The Prime Minister has also expressed his outrage over the increases. Total payments to ten Camelot executives increased from £1.67 million to £2.32 million. One, David Rigg, the communications director, saw his package almost double, from £175,000 to £333,000. Mr Rigg was unavailable for comment yesterday as he was on a half-term holiday with his wife and children.

The Government is likely to be angered further by figures showing Camelot's profits down from £51.1 million to £46.8 million in the year ending March. Total sales slipped

to £4.7 billion from £5.2 billion and the amount raised for good causes dropped to £1.27 billion from £1.41 billion. But, despite the disappointing figures, Camelot said it would apply for a third National Lottery television show to feature scratchcards as a way of boosting scratchcard sales, which have fallen recently. It also said it had been expecting the decline in sales, which were in line with the experience of state-run lotteries in other countries.

Camelot's chief executive,

Tim Holley, who had a 53 per cent rise, taking his total salary package to £590,000, said that the lottery was recognised "on the world stage as a great success" and that the directors' remuneration "reflected results".

He said: "The reason that remuneration packages grew was because of payment from a long-term bonus scheme that has been put in place from before the start of the National Lottery. This is the first time there has been a payment from that, and if you

look at the salaries of directors, such as mine, they went up by 7 per cent."

The BBC Radio 1 breakfast show presenter Mark Radcliffe has pulled out of the National Lottery Live television show, due for broadcast this Saturday, in protest at the pay rises. He and fellow host, Marc Riley, were due to have appeared on the show but said they were so angry that their appearance would have been hypocritical.

Leading article, page 21

THE OPTIONS

End Camelot's licence before it expires in September 2001

For: This would appear decisive and send a signal that the Government was determined to take a hard line with industry "fat cats". It would also be popular with critics of the original decision to award the licence to a commercial company instead of to a non-profitmaking organisation.

Against: Compensation would have to be paid to Camelot, which has invested millions of pounds in machinery and promotion. The huge costs would have to be met by the Department of National Heritage, and ultimately the taxpayer.

Ronnie Fox, an employment law specialist and senior partner with Fox Williams, said: "Forcing Camelot out without their consent would raise serious constitutional issues over the principle that you cannot confiscate people's property and rights unless they are in breach of their licence, which they are not. I cannot see the Government going down this road."

Impose a windfall tax

For: A populist option which would appease critics who claim Camelot was granted a licence to print money. This option would raise more revenue for the Treasury and avoid the costs of revoking Camelot's licence.

Against: It would appear arbitrary and provide ammunition to privatised utilities such as BT and British Gas. "The difference between this and taxing the former nationalised industries is that, when they [the utilities] were sold off, Labour warned it would levy a windfall tax and shareholders knew this when they were making the decision to invest or not. This is an entirely different situation."

Set up a rival non-profit lottery

For: This would eliminate Camelot's monopoly and allow punters to choose where to spend their money.

Against: Charities would not necessarily benefit from confusion among the public and the dilution of publicity away from one high-profile draw. Labour has said it wants one lottery. A Department of National Heritage spokeswoman said yesterday that this was not under active consideration.



Sir George: due to face Chris Smith on Monday

Slim pickings for man who runs the Fat One

BY MARK HENDERSON

AMONG the lottery fat cats, Luis Pérezaguas is a scrawny kitten. While Tim Holley, the Camelot chief executive, scoops a £540,000 salary package, the man who runs the world's richest lottery, responsible for a £38 billion annual taking, earns a salary of £30,000.

In a good year, Señor Pérezaguas can boost his salary with an undisclosed profit-related bonus estimated at £6,000. Señor Pérezaguas is paid no differently from other civil servants of director-general grade in the Spanish Finance Ministry. As a full-time civil servant he has none of the extra-curricular business commitments that prevented Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, attending crisis talks with the National Heritage Secretary yesterday.

The Spanish national lottery alone takes £23 billion a year, more than four times Camelot's annual take of £4.7 billion, and pays out daily million-pound jackpots. At

Christmas Señor Pérezaguas is responsible for paying out the world's richest single lottery prize, known as El Gordo (The Fat One). Last year the El Gordo draw was worth more than £154 million.

Señor Pérezaguas's department's annual take exceeds £38 billion because he also runs two smaller lotteries and the national football pools.

Other European lottery chiefs earn peanuts compared with Mr Holley. In Ireland, Ray Bates, the Director of the National Lottery, earns just over £80,000 a year and his four deputies earn less than £50,000. All are civil servants in a state-run lottery and are paid according to a grading system. Three of Mr Holley's senior boardroom colleagues take-home pay packets worth more than £300,000.

Bertrand de Gallé, the French national lottery director, is also a civil servant and his salary is not released with lottery accounts. Civil servants

of an equivalent grade are paid approximately £110,000. The French lottery made a profit of nearly £40 million last year.

Only in the United States are Camelot's salaries matched or exceeded by lottery chiefs. Richard Haddrell, president of Video Lottery Technologies, a Montana company that runs nine American state lotteries including the second largest, in Florida, took home a salary package worth more than £600,000 last year, putting him slightly ahead of Mr Holley.

Wealthier still is Guy Snowden, owner of GTEch, which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot. He earns over £2 million a year in salary and benefits and has shares in the company valued at more than £30 million.

GTEch either runs or has a stake in 70 per cent of the world's lotteries, including the Texas state lottery, the largest in America, and tiny lotteries in Iceland and Estonia.

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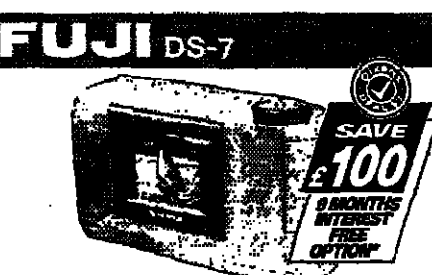
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مكتبة الامن الاصلي

Victim's brother will come under intense diplomatic pressure to reconsider rejection of clemency

Call for nurses' deaths puts Saudis in dilemma

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE families of two British nurses being tried for the murder of a colleague in Saudi Arabia fly to the Middle East today. They will visit Deborah Parry and Lucy McLauchlan in the knowledge that the victim's brother has told Saudi officials they should be executed if convicted.

Frank Gilford, whose sister Yvonne was stabbed and suffocated at the Dhahran hospital where the three women worked in December, said: "Those who do the crime must do the time." He added: "Yvonne was shown no mercy. It's difficult for us to show mercy to Yvonne's killers."

His refusal to consider clemency places the Saudis in a difficult situation: should they ignore the ruling of the court, if the women are found guilty, and insist on clemency; or should they authorise beheadings, in keeping with their own Islamic code, and risk uproar overseas?

Mr Gilford has three weeks in which to consider a plea for clemency on behalf of Ms Parry, 38, and Ms McLauchlan, 31. He has refused the offer of a paid flight to Saudi Arabia to meet the two women, saying there is new evidence which has yet to go before the court that convinced him of their guilt.

The Riyadh Government is acutely aware of the political hazards involved in the case. So far it has demonstrated a sure-footed response. By sticking to the Islamic principle of allowing the closest male relative to decide whether or not to grant clemency, it has thrown the ball into the Western court. If Mr Gilford sticks to his intransigent line, the Saudis could say that the West upholds the punishment decreed by Saudi law; if he agrees the sentence should be commuted, it could imprison the two women and then bundle them

out of the country as swiftly as possible to rid it of the embarrassment.

Saudi Arabia would clearly prefer that the court did not pass a death sentence. As far as Saudis are concerned, no Muslims are involved in the case, so sensitivities are correspondingly fewer. The Government could argue, therefore, that sentence should be appropriate for what is normal in the West.

Nevertheless, the case has already attracted so much adverse publicity that it has become a matter of face. If the Saudi Government makes a clear exception for foreigners, it could be strongly criticised by religious zealots for undermining Islamic law, and by other Asian countries such as Thailand and the Philippines, whose non-Muslim nationals have frequently been executed for such crimes as drug-smuggling and murder.

British press allegations that the Islamic justice system is unfair are also bound to inflame sensitivities. The Saudis have taken unusual steps to allow defence lawyers access to court deliberations and to introduce a degree of legal transparency not common in normal cases.

However, suggestions that confessions were extracted from the nurses under duress have angered the authorities. Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador, dismissed all such press allegations and insisted that the only confession that would be recognised was one freely given to the court.

Although the two women have yet to be judged, negotiations are going on as though a guilty verdict had already been reached. The nurses themselves are said to be willing to raise "blood money" should this be necessary; their lawyers are giving the case



Yvonne Gilford was stabbed and suffocated

great publicity to put pressure on the Islamic court.

A quick resolution is unlikely: the case has been adjourned for three weeks, and if the women are eventually found guilty there is a lengthy appeal process to a higher court. The final say is likely to be political, as the Saudi

Interior Ministry, and in this case probably the royal family, have the last word.

A criminal law expert in Riyadh said the court would first study the confessions, "and, if that is not deemed sufficient, then evidence will be submitted". The nurses' lawyers emphasise that there has as yet been "no legal qualification of the charges". If the women face charges of first-degree murder the *qisas*, or capital punishment, would apply. But if the charges are second-degree murder, without intent to kill, the nurses would face a maximum sentence of five years as well as "money for the family".

Diplomats are already suggesting that Mr Gilford may be holding out for a commitment to a lengthy sentence or for a substantial cash payment from the families of the accused. In the next three weeks he will come under intense diplomatic pressure to reconsider his rejection of the clemency plea.



Frank Gilford and his wife, Laurel, at their home in South Australia. "It's difficult for us to show mercy"



McLauchlan, left, and Parry, whose families fly to Saudi Arabia today to visit the nurses in jail



Fisherman says lover had Aids before they met

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THE Greek Cypriot fisherman accused by a British woman of infecting her with HIV claims that she may have had Aids before they slept together. He said there was no other explanation why Janette Pink, 45, had demanded unprotected sex when she knew he was HIV-positive.

Favlos Georgiou made the allegation in a four-page statement that was read to a court in Cyprus yesterday. He dismissed claims by Mrs Pink, who has Aids, that he had kept his condition secret, but made no attempt to deny that he knew he was HIV-positive well before they had any sexual contact.

Mr Georgiou appeared more relaxed without Mrs Pink's presence in court. She returned to England after giving evidence last week.

Mr Georgiou, 40, said he did not know whether he had given her the virus, but added: "The question arises that, if a woman knows her sexual partner is an Aids carrier and she wasn't, why did she insist on making love without precautions?" The possibility that Mrs Pink had Aids before arriving in Cyprus was never raised by the defence during its two-day cross-examination.

Tassos Economou, for Mr Georgiou, argued earlier that the signed statement was inadmissible because police had told the fisherman they wanted it only to clear up the case. The senior detective who took the statement on January 14 said Mr Georgiou was read his rights and had been keen to talk. Inspector Andreas Naoum said it was a "friendly atmosphere" and Mr Georgiou had asked him out to

dinner after the interview. Judge Antonis Liatos ordered that the statement be admitted as evidence.

Mrs Pink, from Basildon, Essex, had said her former lover consistently lied to her about his condition during their three-year affair. His English-born wife, Martha, died of an Aids-related illness in August 1994. Mrs Pink said Mr Georgiou told her she had died of leukaemia.

Mr Georgiou said they had a long friendship before their relationship became physical. He admitted to police that he had not told Mrs Pink at the time that he had tested HIV-positive in June 1992. He said she discovered the truth from his mother-in-law and eldest daughter when his wife died, several months after they had begun seeing each other. "Until that time we had no sexual contact," he said.

Mr Georgiou tested HIV-positive in June 1992 after his wife had told him she had the virus. He said he and Mrs Pink continued to have sex without precautions and, at the beginning of 1996, she became pregnant. He said she had tested positive at a clinic before she became pregnant.

Doctors advised her to have a termination and she had an abortion in Nicosia. Dr Athenoula Neou told the court that Mrs Pink visited her in March 1994 requesting a test for Aids and venereal disease. Both were negative. Mrs Pink returned six months later and the test was positive.

Mr Georgiou is charged with knowingly committing an act that could transmit a life-threatening disease. The case continues on Wednesday.

Must a painter use a brush?

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Debacle puts euro fudge on menu

Brussels insists on launch deadline

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

COMMENT

EUROPE'S monetary guardians yesterday sought to calm the storm over the future single currency while politicians and experts agreed that the turmoil in France and Germany presaged a euro that could now only be launched through political compromise.

In a matter of days, an electoral revolt in France and a spectacular row in Germany have battered the prospects of a currency which had been cruising towards creation, carried by the will of the Franco-German establishment and the faith of the financial markets.

Gone now is the confidence that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will manage to steer the scheme through the turbulence of popular resistance to ensure the birth of a strong successor to the mark. Even before Wednesday's condemnation by Hans

Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, Bonn's sudden desire to use its gold reserves for artful accounting, a decision that could only have come from the Chancellor, had undermined his image at home as the guarantor of fiscal rectitude. The clash has bestowed breathing room for the governments of southern Europe in their struggle to meet the letter of the Maastricht treaty.

Clear alternatives have emerged: either the euro will be broad and probably soft, encompassing the weaker economies of Italy and the Mediterranean states, or it will be delayed from its planned launch on January 1, 1999.

The notion of delay, though freely and often raised in Britain, has long been taboo in Brussels, Paris or Bonn. In recent months it has only been



Gold piled up at the vaults of Bundesbank is at the centre of the revaluation row

invoked in whispers by ministers from Italy and The Netherlands who worried that the rush to fulfil the tough Maastricht criteria risked provoking a dangerous backlash. Yesterday Yves-Thibault de

Silguy, the European Union Commissioner in charge of the project, was standing by the orthodox line. "The euro will be born on January 1, 1999. The process is now irreversible," he said. "There is no

question of cooking the books or fudging the figures."

The betting in Brussels and among many analysts around Europe holds that political and economic arguments will prevail against allowing slip-page in the sacred deadline of the Maastricht treaty. Economic and monetary union (EMU) is still cherished in France and Germany, its progenitors, as the consummation of the political union designed at Maastricht.

Any delay will amount to abandonment, they argue, pointing to the two-decade lapse since the last monetary scheme in the early 1970s. The gates would open to a financial upheaval that could send the mark soaring, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the struggling German economy. Jacques Delors, the senior French Socialist and former President of

the Commission, yesterday stated the case: "Respect for the EMU timetable is an absolute political imperative."

Whoever wins Sunday's second round of the French election, the new government will have a mandate to ease up on the austerity drive pursued by the Socialist administration of the late President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, his Gaullist successor. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader who could become Prime Minister, yesterday reaffirmed his "absolute commitment" to the euro, but also renewed his pledge to ensure that the strict monetary criteria be subordinated to political imperatives such as the need to fight unemployment.

The Gaullist alliance, hoping to retain power, has shifted far in the same direction. Philippe Séguin, the likely Gaullist Premier and former anti-Maastricht campaigner, said the Maastricht demand for a budget deficit of no more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product "is nothing but masochism".

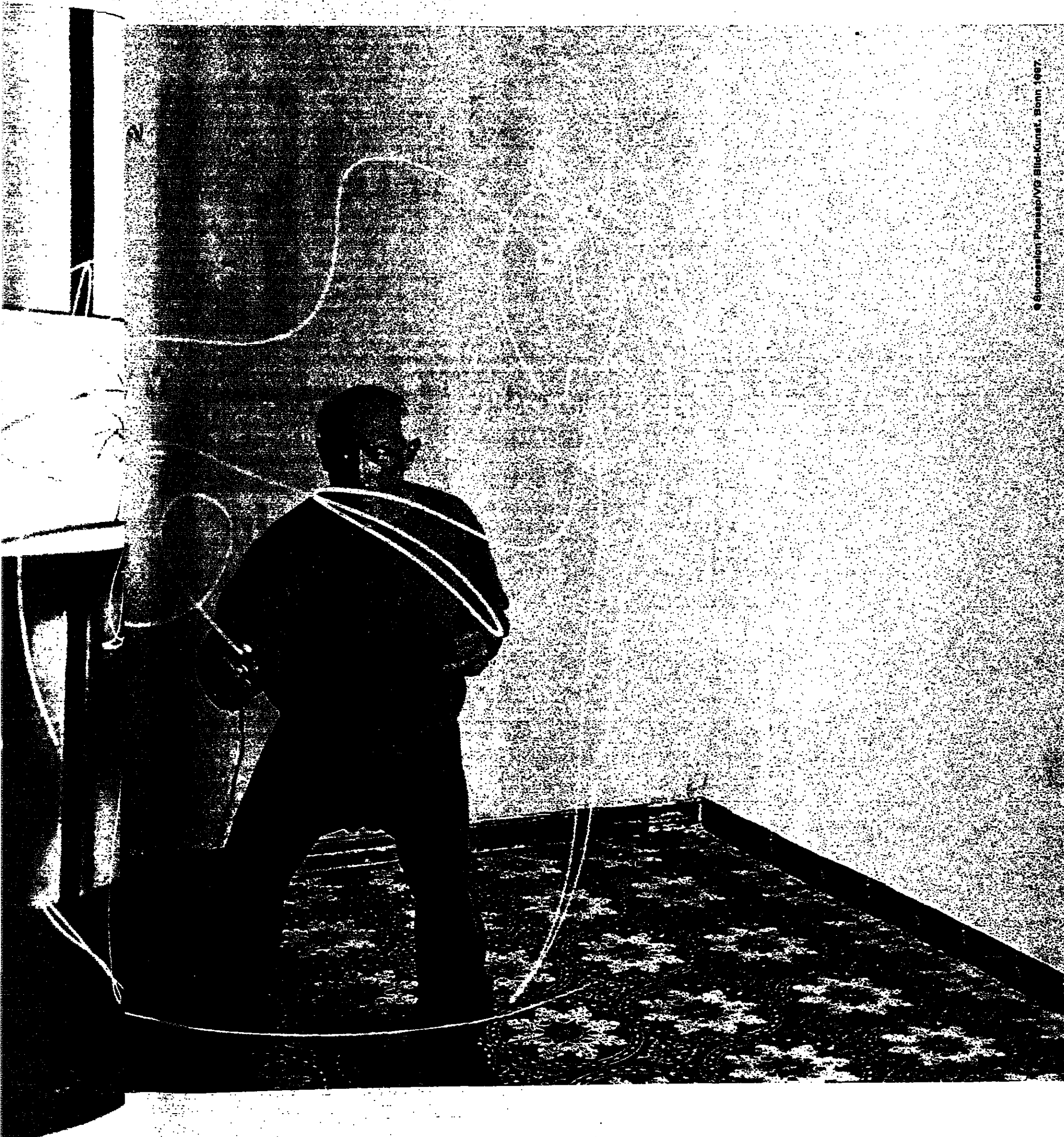
Both M Jospin and M Séguin are insisting that monetary union must include the maximum number of countries, taking in the Italians, Spanish and Portuguese. The only countries likely to stay outside this euro zone would be Greece, whose economy is too weak, and Britain, Denmark and Sweden, which are expected to opt out.

The fate of EMU hangs now more than ever on German politics. Herr Kohl has effectively gambled that he can face down the Bundesbank, as he did over German unification, and convince his parliament and public to accept a softer version of the entrance test.

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Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, who accused Herr Kohl of creative accounting



© Succession Photos/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 1997



Maria Montell, the pop singer who is reported to be travelling in Vietnam with Prince Frederik

Prince of Denmark disappears to be or not to be alone

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

COURT sources here yesterday dismissed reports that Prince Frederik, the heir to the Danish throne, had vanished during a visit to Thailand or gone into hiding.

While the Thai press speculated that tragedy may have overtaken the Crown Prince, or that he had been caught up in a comedy of errors, Danish tabloids were following up theories of their own.

"Frederik and Maria in Vietnam" declared the leading Danish tabloid BT yesterday on its front page. "Love" proclaimed its rival, Ekstra Bladet. But the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen would confirm only that the 29-year-old Prince was in Vietnam for a few days after heading a Danish trade mission to Thailand. The palace declined to say whether the Prince was travelling alone or not.

The popular press here insists that the bachelor Prince, who is reputed to have an eye for the ladies and a passion for fast cars, is travelling with Maria Montell, 28, a pop singer with whom he has been romantically linked.

In Thailand, the Bangkok Post reported that the Prince was diving off Phuket, a popular beach resort 428 miles south of Bangkok.

However, the Prince has not been seen publicly in Thailand since security police delivered him to the Danish Embassy in Bangkok last Thursday after an audience with Thailand's King Bhumibol.

The Danish popular press and paparazzi tend to treat the Royal Family with respect. But the focus on Prince Frederik has intensified since his brother, Prince Joachim, 27, married the Alexandra Manley, a Hong Kong British citizen, in 1995.

Last Thursday was the final day of the official visit and the Bangkok Post reported that the Prince's entourage was seen boarding a plane at Bangkok without him. Journalists approached the Danish Embassy after the Prince failed to arrive in Copenhagen with his group.

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Chirac blesses marriage of convenience

Centre-Right pins fading hopes on political odd couple

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

IN THE fraught closing days of France's parliamentary election, President Chirac has given his implicit blessing to a new and unlikely alliance between Philippe Séguin, a Eurosceptic, and Alain Madelin, a free marketer, that may represent the Centre-Right's last remaining hope of retaining its ruling majority.

The President telephoned both M Séguin, the Gaullist parliamentary Speaker, and M Madelin, a former Finance Minister, before the two men held a joint campaign rally in Chambéry.

The calls were officially described as a "discussion of campaign tactics", but M Chirac's carefully timed move has been widely interpreted as a hint that M Séguin is in line for the premiership if the Centre-Right scrapes together a renewed majority in the decisive second round of voting on Sunday.

After the resignation of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, M Séguin has emerged as the front-runner for his office. M Chirac cannot openly say who he favours to replace M Juppé, but he may be hoping that by giving the impression of support for the popular M Séguin at this late stage he can avert a left-wing victory, following the Centre-Right's dismal showing in the first round.

The President is surely calculating that M Séguin's anti-Maastricht credentials, combined with his recent conversion to European monetary union "with conditions" — a position remarkably similar to that of the Socialists — may just be enough to entice sufficient voters back to the Centre-Right.

The combination of M Séguin and M Madelin is being described by their supporters as a "dream team", but with private opinion polls still

FRENCH ELECTIONS

showing the Left clearly ahead the belief that they can turn the tide may itself be no more than a dream.

"Chirac's last card," *Libération* newspaper declared on its front page yesterday. "Can Séguin still save the Right?"

If he became Prime Minister, M Séguin would be expected to reward M Madelin with his former job at the Finance Ministry or another senior ministerial post.

On Wednesday night the two politicians insisted that they see eye-to-eye on fundamental issues, but the Séguin-Madelin tandem is a peculiar vehicle and the wide disparity between their opinions may serve only to confuse and alienate voters further.

M Madelin is an outspoken free marketer who has campaigned ardently for deregulation and was fired by M Juppé for suggesting that civil service perks should be cut. The socially minded M Séguin, by contrast, represents the Gaullist left wing as a vigorous proponent of job creation and help for the poor. Until recently he was a staunch opponent of the Maastricht treaty, which M Madelin supports.

M Séguin insisted that his ideas were "fully complementary" with those of M Madelin, but others have dismissed their linkage as a cynical alliance of convenience.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National



Philippe Séguin, left, the parliamentary Speaker, and Alain Madelin being greeted by supporters in Chambéry

Front, whose rhetoric is becoming increasingly bizarre as the campaign heads to a climax, came up with a characteristically earthy attack on the Séguin-Madelin ticket.

"This is a crocodile, an African animal with a lion's head at one end and crocodile's head at the other," M Le Pen said. "This is a very wild animal because it cannot go to the toilet."

Many figures within the Centre-Right were also openly sceptical of the new-found

affinity between M Séguin and M Madelin. "You can't harness a little bit of liberal skylark to a great chunk of socialist horse; that doesn't work," observed François Léotard, head of the UDF group of centre-right parties, and another possible candidate for the premiership.

Lionel Jospin, the leader of the Socialist Party and the man most likely to be France's next Prime Minister, was scathing.

"You can't make a synthesis

out of an impossible coupling," he said. "The French people have not forgotten that M Madelin was removed from government within three months. They know that M Séguin is his opposite."

M Juppé, who heartily dislikes both M Séguin and M Madelin, was one of the few to look positively on the duo, describing them as "a good ticket because they are united on the essentials".

While the Centre-Right was already displaying the frac-

tious signs of a coalition that may shortly be in opposition, with just three days to go before the voters' final verdict M Jospin was sounding increasingly like Tony Blair as he repeatedly issued warnings against complacency, insisted the Left was "ready to govern", and took every opportunity to invoke the British Prime Minister.

Before his own final campaign rally, M Jospin announced he was feeling "cool, as Tony Blair would say".

Turkish leader steps down to ward off generals

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S first Islamic government, under mounting pressure from military leaders, yesterday collapsed amid chaos and recriminations.

Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, agreed to step down from office in a move that will bring relief to Turkey's nervous Western allies and could ward off the growing threat of military intervention.

Mr Erbakan made his decision partly in an attempt to outmanoeuvre the military, which accuses him of steering the country towards radical Islam.

Under a formula announced yesterday, the Government will be handed over to Tansu Ciller, the former Prime Minister and coalition ally, who will lead the country to early elections.

Mr Erbakan must now persuade parliament to pass an early election law. This would clear the way in a month's time for him to hand over the premiership to his junior partner, Mrs Ciller, as required by their coalition agreement.

The chance of regaining the Prime Ministers' office even briefly would give Mrs Ciller the chance to restore an authority over her True Path Party, badly damaged by a recent spate of high-level resignations.

The scheme to swap the prime ministership could still founder. Once Mr Erbakan bowed out, President Demirel would have to select Mrs Ciller for the job. Mr Demirel may well insist on selecting his prerogative of choosing Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the opposition, whose Motherland Party has more deputies than the True Path.

It is the prospect of Mrs Ciller's party collapsing altogether which will have changed Mr Erbakan's mind not to soldier on as he once promised until 2000 but to go for a poll as early as next October. Mr Erbakan's under pressure from his partner

try's chief prosecutor who has taken an action to shut down his Welfare Party altogether for transgressing the secular guidelines of the Turkish constitution and political parties law. A verdict in that trial is expected by the new year.

Mr Erbakan rallied his Welfare party at an Istanbul stadium yesterday in a ceremony held to commemorate the historic taking of the city from the Byzantines 544 years ago.

Earlier in the year Mr Erbakan had pledged to complete that conquest by commissioning a new mosque in the middle of Istanbul's entertainment district. This and a series of similar pronouncements created a sense of panic among Turkey's secular establishment.

Last February, the Turkish military issued the Government with a series of demands, including the closure of religious secondary schools, regarded as a breeding ground for hard-line Islamic attitudes. Only last Monday, senior commanders successfully demanded that Mr Erbakan approve the cashiering of scores of officers suspected of anti-secular sympathies.



Erbakan standing over... partner

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Coup army takes over gem mines

Freetown: Sierra Leonean soldiers have seized foreign-owned diamond mines in the eastern town of Koidu after Sunday's army coup, police and community leaders in the town said yesterday.

Heavily armed soldiers who drove from Freetown in commandeered vehicles opened fire to scare away owners of mines and other businesses. British, Canadian and Belgian mine operators are among hundreds of foreigners waiting in Freetown for evacuation flights.

Meanwhile, 240 Lebanese nationals evacuated from Sierra Leone arrived in Beirut yesterday. One woman said every Lebanese family was forced to pay Sierra Leone's armed forces \$2,000. (Reuters)

Mugabe, 73, has another child

Harare: President Mugabe has become a father again at 73 (Jan Raath writes). His wife Grace, 31, gave birth to the couple's third child at a private clinic, an official said. The boy, their second, is to be christened today. Mr Mugabe "was growing ever younger" since his marriage last year, said President Mandela of South Africa on a visit here last week.

Somali ceasefire

Cairo: Somalia's two most powerful faction leaders, Hussein Mohamed Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed, agreed to a ceasefire and called on other factions to join their peace efforts. (Reuters)

Kabila gives pledge of 1999 elections as he is sworn in

FROM REUTERS IN KINSHASA

PRESIDENT KABILA took office as head of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday, sealing his victory over Mobutu Sese Seko, the former Zairean dictator. His first deed as President was to promise elections in April 1999.

Mr Kabila, whose forces marched into the capital on May 17 after a seven-month civil war, took the oath of office in front of the head of the Supreme Court and tens of thousands of people in Kinshasa's sports stadium.

In an address to the nation, punctuated with criticism of Western governments which supported Mr Mobutu and have put pressure on Mr Kabila to embrace democracy, the new leader announced a timetable for democratic change in the former Zaire.



Kabila: poll timetable "will be respected"

"We are not in a hurry. This crumbling and shattered state must be organised so that the Congolese people can hold elections," he said, setting April 1999 as the date for both presidential and parliamentary elections.

"Be assured that the timetable will be respected," he said, adding that no foreign interference would change the timetable. As a first step, he said a constituent council would be set up to draft a new constitution that would be put to an elected constituent assembly and to the people in a referendum in December 1998.

The Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, Angola, Burundi and Zambia attended the ceremony, at which many in the crowd caught their first glimpse of the man who now controls their destiny. Mr Kabila, 57, has kept out of the public eye since arriving in the city on May 20.

Organisers told hundreds of students calling for democracy and payment of grants that any disruption of the ceremony would provoke a "firm" response and that they would bear responsibility for the consequences.

One official, speaking over the public address system, also blamed members of Mr Mobutu's defeated army for the disruption and said that some had been apprehended in the crowd.

As Mr Kabila arrived, there was a rumble of discontent in some sections of the crowd, who asked the whereabouts of Etienne Tshisekedi, the veteran opposition leader.

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Applicants to Nato club surrender veto right

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN SINTRA, PORTUGAL

ELEVEN countries which have applied to join Nato have agreed voluntarily not to block any nation from becoming members of the alliance.

Although the agreement will not be enforceable by law, the effective surrender of the right of veto will remove a significant obstacle to Nato's "open door" policy under which its plans for enlargement will be completed in two, three or even four phases.

Without the voluntary agreement, reached during a programme of dialogue between Nato and countries wishing to join the alliance, it would have been possible for those in the first wave, expected to be Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, and possibly Romania and Slovenia, to object to a second wave at a later date.

The list of applicants includes the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Moldova and the three Baltic states, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Albania has also indicated an interest in joining, but has not yet started a dialogue.

The voluntary deal was revealed at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Sintra

which provided the first opportunity for the alliance to address the issue of who should be invited to join in the first wave.

Nato governments will make the final choice by the end of June and the selected countries will be told of their successful application a few days before the alliance summit in Madrid in July when a formal invitation will be made.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, making his first appearance at Nato's North Atlantic Council, said Britain had not yet made up its mind whether to support a first wave of three, four or five countries. Romania and Slovenia are battling hard to be included and appear to have won more supporters within the alliance.

According to Portuguese diplomatic sources, the line-up of Nato members arguing for five new members in the first wave now consists of France, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

The sources said the United States wanted only Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary; Britain, they said, was moving towards supporting Slovenia

to make it four, and Germany was also considering Slovenia, although the principal backers were in the Bundestag.

Mr Cook said the entry of the three front-runners into the alliance, one of which — Poland, with 38.5 million inhabitants — has a large population, "was not a small enlargement". And he emphasised the importance of ensuring that Nato's strengths as a military organisation were not "diluted".

He also underlined that any new members of the alliance had to contribute towards improving the security of the whole of Europe. This was one of the main objectives of the enlargement programme.

However, John Burns, the US State Department spokesman, said a "strategic judgement" had been made that enlargement could involve several phases without undermining the effectiveness and credibility of the alliance.

There is no date set for the second wave, although some Nato sources indicated that it could be 2001 or 2002.

Underlining America's enthusiasm for an expanding Nato, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said

that the programme was not going to be like "the Hale-Bopp comet, coming round once every 3,000 years".

Although all the foreign ministers were full of praise for the deal signed with Russia in Paris on Tuesday, guaranteeing close co-operation and consultation between Nato and Moscow on mutual security interests, they made it clear that the alliance's expansion plans would go ahead without Russian involvement.

President Yeltsin had stated that the Baltic states should not be allowed to join Nato. "But we don't agree with that," Mr Burns said.

In another move to develop a changed security environment in Europe, Gennadi Udovenko, the Foreign Minister of Ukraine, initiated a special charter with Nato which will guarantee consultation and a "distinctive" partnership, along the lines of the agreement signed with Russia, although not on such a comprehensive scale.

A new body has also been set up in Nato to upgrade contacts with the six Mediterranean countries of Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.



Rabbi Shmura Shore examines Melody, the ten-month-old heifer, to verify that it is really totally red-haired

Israel's 'secret map' cuts Palestinian land by half

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI plans to offer the Palestinians control of about 40 per cent of the occupied West Bank in a final peace deal, less than half of what they were expecting, according to a report in yesterday's *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv paper.

The report by Ze'ev Schiff, its defence analyst, included what it claimed was a "secret map" drawn up by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, for presentation to the Palestinians when the final status talks — at present in abeyance — are resumed. The report followed Wednesday's first session of Israel's inner security Cabinet to discuss the blueprint for a final peace plan. A rival newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* had slightly different figures, claiming that Israel's defence establishment had proposed that "at least 40 per cent of the occupied territories" remained under Israeli sovereignty.

The *Haaretz* report, despite a denial by Mr Netanyahu, infuriated the Palestinians and was described by one independent Israeli security expert as likely to provoke an immediate walkout by the Arabs if it was ever formally laid on the negotiating table.

Under the previous Labour administration, the Palestinians had been led to believe that in final status negotia-

tions, due to be completed in May 1999, they could expect to regain about 90 per cent of the West Bank. They are hoping to use the land to establish an independent state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Referring to the *Haaretz* report, backed by a detailed front page version of the alleged "secret map", Ahmed Tibi, Yasser Arafat's top adviser, told Israeli army radio: "These numbers, excuse the expression, are political masturbation by the Government of Israel. He argued that Israel should negotiate with the Palestinians on the final framework, rather than debate it among themselves.

Mr Tibi called the map "a shot with automatic fire at the dying body of the Oslo peace accord".

Saeed Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said of the Netanyahu plan: "This is not acceptable. He is negotiating with himself, or rather with himself and other extremists in his government. He has forgotten he has a partner."

In fact, the Palestinians themselves have broken off all peace talks since Israel began building a settlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem on March 18. Egypt is now struggling to bring the sides together. Publication of the figures sparked a furore

which could fuel further violence.

Mr Netanyahu acknowledged that he had some ideas about the shape of a final deal and said they were discussed for the first time on Wednesday when the military presented its security assessments. "There is no basis to that report because I did not show to anyone [a map] nor did I draw a map," the Prime Minister told Israeli radio.

Asked whether he had a map, he replied in a fashion which Palestinians saw as confirming their fears: "We have a map in our head. Who hasn't?"

According to Mr Schiff the Palestinians would not be offered a land link between the northern and southern parts of their territory in the West Bank. Israel would, in addition, retain a swath of land in the West Bank's Jordan Valley along the Jordanian border, and around Jerusalem.

"The secret map which Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intends to present to the Palestinian Authority in final status negotiations would give them less than 40 per cent of the area," Mr Schiff wrote. He claimed that over time, if the security situation warranted, they could obtain some additional West Bank territory.

Heifer 'is portent of Messiah'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A THEOLOGICAL controversy has erupted in Israel over a ten-month-old farm animal named Melody, believed by some Jews to be the first red heifer born in the Holy Land in two millennia.

Yesterday the beast was whiling away its time in the farming village of Kfar Hasi-dim in northern Israel, blissfully unaware of the furore that it has provoked in a country where it is seen by an extreme minority as an extraordinary portent for the new millennium.

Some Israelis claim it is the harbinger of the Messiah, while others demand that it be killed before it sparks new Middle Eastern violence on a scale greater than anything seen in recent decades.

"The red heifer is one of the most important signs that we are living in a special time," says Gershon Solomon, leader of an ultra-nationalist Israeli group dedicated to rebuilding the ancient Jewish Temple, destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

There are fears that some Jewish extremist groups will interpret the birth of the heifer, produced by artificial insemination from a bull in Switzerland, as a sign the time is right to rebuild the Temple on a site now houses some of Islam's holiest shrines.

Judges sacked for opposing Fujimori

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Peruvian Congress yesterday dismissed three Supreme Court judges who had "dared" to vote against a constitutional amendment which would allow President Fujimori to run for a third term in the year 2000.

The three magistrates were escorted from the Constitutional Tribunal in Lima by armed police shortly after the Congress — made up of a majority of Fujimori supporters — had voted to remove them because they were stalling efforts to extend the President's mandate. The

governing Cambio 90-Nueva Mayoria coalition mustered 52 votes, against the Opposition's 36, to sack the magistrates. Manuel Aguirre Roca, Guillermo Rey Terry and Delia Revoredo Marsano had declared that the law allowing a President two consecutive terms was "not applicable" to Señor Fujimori's wish to run a third time.

Known to Peruvians as the "little emperor", Señor Fujimori was elected for the first time in 1990 and re-elected in 1995. He claims that because the constitutional reform allowing re-election was approved in the middle of his second term, it should apply to him.

It is not the first time that he has reverted to strongarm tactics, but it is the most blatant in weeks and yesterday triggered mass street protests against his authoritarian style. "We live in fear under a supposed democracy which acts like a dictatorship," said one of the demonstrators' banners in the Plaza de Armas in Lima.

In 1992 Señor Fujimori staged a self-styled coup, closing down the Congress and the Supreme Court with the help of the military. He gave the security forces extraordinary powers to clamp down on traditional parties, and in effect dismantled most of them.

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Pleasures of horsing around

Are supporters of the hunt more interested in sexual conquest than chasing the fox? Joe Joseph reports

When all thought the reason why even devout Labour supporters were keen to preserve foxhunting was because it combines riding through glorious countryside with the chance to break your neck, but now Max Hastings has opened our eyes. Wide.

Moving the foxhunting debate away from the moor and on to the mattress, Hastings tells us that "Some of the silliest men in England, to the rage of less well-endowed rivals, have been able to play like lutes upon the affections of some of the prettiest women merely on the grounds that they can get over a few fences without breaking their half-witted necks."

In a fascinating article in the latest issue of *The Field*, the Editor of London's *Evening Standard* and legendary field sports enthusiast suggests that even the prettiest women go weak at the knees for a man who has mastered the art of riding to hounds, however ugly or brainless he might be. Hastings, who voted Tory on account of Labour's anti-foxhunting proposals, even though his newspaper backed Tony Blair — paints a colourful world of "bores" and "mounted bores".

His own jaw apparently still drops at the sexual shenanigans of the hunt. Hastings relates a story of a married woman who turned up one night at the house of her



'The silliest of men can play on the affections of the prettiest women' — Max Hastings

horseback hero: when the man opened the door, she let her fur coat drop to the ground, revealing a more or less naked body. She stayed.

Hastings says "nothing like it" disturbs the tranquil world of shooters and fishers, which leads him to the conclusion any half-adept male foxhunter who propositions a huntswoman who doesn't immediately want to climb into a horsebox with him has found one of the hunting world's rare prizes. But if Hastings is correct, the more likely explanation is that he has merely chanced on a lesbian.

Cooper thinks Hastings has caught the mood about right and says that "in the horse world, one is more likely to find dazzling horse-manship and courage seductive than good looks. One wouldn't fancy a lousy rider." Ever practical, she adds that "sillies are blurred in hunting" as hunters are out from nine in the morning to six or seven in the evening. "There's a lot of free time, and a lot of woodland to disappear into." And yes, horseboxes often do double duty as "a mobile do-it-yourself motel". It's not very different in Ireland.

Patrick Hughes, master of the Meath hunt, concedes that "there is a lot of truth in what Max says. As a master of a hunt, I know how attracted women are to anyone who rides well. There is always a glint in their eye, or a flutter of the eyelashes, when they address the master. You never



Huntswomen are said to be more interested in girls than foxes. "There's a lot of free time and a lot of woodland to disappear into," says Jilly Cooper

have any difficulty dancing all night at the hunt balls.

"The trouble is that so many women who hunt are not exactly... well, how should I put it, petite, pretty, model-types. They are not the kind of girl you see on the catwalk. Rather, they are tough, hard, robust campaigners. They are used to a scrap. Remember, hunting is a demanding sport. So if you see a pretty girl on a hunt and they flutter their eyelashes, you naturally take notice."

Some people argue that foxhunting is an atavistic throwback to man's roots, when men really were hunting for food: when they ride to hounds, something in their brain short-circuits and they find themselves involuntarily responding to other basic reflexes, notably propagating

the human race as fast as they can. But not everyone is convinced that hunting means hanky-panky. The philosopher Roger Scruton, author of *Sexual Desire*, thinks the whole thing is "total nonsense. It may be true of others' experience, but not of mine. Maybe I'm naive, but hunting people seem to be quite respectable."

"Like any sport, there is a heightened physical awareness which may breed interest in the opposite sex. I met my wife on the hunting field. If anything, the very nature of the meeting made our relationship more formal. Hunters haven't got time for anything except keeping an eye on the field and in the saddle. I suppose some people may use a horsebox as a mobile whorehouse: if you don't mind what you get covered in, there may be a

perverse pleasure in it." Oxford don Robin Lane Fox takes issue with Hastings: "In 40 years of hunting, I have seen less evidence of adultery than we have seen on both sides of the House of Commons."

Certainly the opportunities for unfussy and untraceable adultery would appear to be greater in the foxhunting world.

Francie sex in a horsebox doesn't raise eyebrows because horses themselves make pretty strange noises (it also explains why "horse blankets", which should be about 20ft square to do the job properly, always seem to be about the same size as a human bed blanket).

Horse smells are also guaranteed to mask the tell-tale Chanel whiff of adultery: if your wife can still detect another woman's scent on you after you have had sex in a

horsebox, then you are probably married to a bloodhound. Horse-world sex carries another bonus: it is a fetishist's paradise. If black leather boots, whips and bridles are your thing, then easy access to the paraphernalia of foxhunting allows you to indulge your fantasy without the bother of visiting your local branch of Ann Summers — that is, if your village even has an Ann Summers.

Also, however lustful foxhunters might be, they have their pride: even when they are contemplating horsebox passion. Once again, foxhunting sex comes up trumps: a person whose blood doesn't curdle when they see a fox torn to shreds by a pack of hounds isn't going to get squeamish at the sight of a bit of cellulite on a woman's thigh, or at the

sight of a man whose uncensored paunch turns out to be the size of Leicestershire. Michael Clayton, former Editor of *Horse and Hounds* and chairman of the Cotswold Hunt in Leicestershire, is another who has doubts about Hastings' revelations. "Riding of all kinds does attract this sort of myth-making, but I would say that these things are equally available in the average small office."

"I'm sure that Max meant it to be amusing, but I don't think the sexual mores of people who hunt are actually more startling than anywhere else. All the people I know have partners or successful marriages. They lead blameless lives. All this stuff about horseboxes is ludicrous; it would be jolly uncomfortable."

● *The Juncs* issue of *The Field* is on sale now. £2.80

George's nose for diagnosis

Bill Frost reports on dogs that can sniff out the onset of potentially fatal human diseases



Tony Brown-Griffin and Rupert. "When I am about to have an attack he barks urgently"

In return for a dry biscuit, George the sniffer dog will perform an astonishing diagnostic feat no medical specialist can ever match. The six-year-old schnauzer, until recently employed by police in Tallahassee, Florida, to detect drugs or explosives, has been trained to sniff out another late-20th-century menace: skin cancer.

"The dog can apparently identify the 'signature scent' of the disease in its earliest stages."

In laboratory tests George's accuracy rate was very close to 100 per cent. Spurred on by the prospect of regular rewards for his medical detective work, he graduated from identifying melanoma samples in test tubes to "examining" cancer patients themselves. After circling the subject's bed, George would unerringly locate the melanoma and place his paw gently on the affected area.

Armand Cognetta, the Florida dermatologist conducting the tests, had long been concerned at the rise in skin cancer cases and his profession's failure to develop a reliable early test which could differentiate between a harmless mole and a tumour. He scoured every medical journal and paper he could find until an issue of *The Lancet* published in April 1989 was to provide him with inspiration.

Two British doctors, Hywel Williams and Andrew Pembroke, told how a dog had "prompted" his owner to seek medical advice which almost certainly saved her life. The woman had developed what she thought was a mole on her left leg which at first fascinated, then infuriated the animal. In fact, she was in the early

stages of skin cancer. Her doberman border collie cross spent several minutes a day sniffing at the "mole". As the weeks passed, the animal became "obsessed" with the growth, eventually attempting to bite it off when the woman wore shorts. The patient had by now begun monitoring the melanoma's growth and discoloration. Her pet's reaction made her seek treatment.

"The dog may have saved her owner's life by prompting her to seek medical advice when the lesion was still at a curable stage," the doctors wrote, adding: "Perhaps malignant tumours such as melanoma... emit unique odours which, though undetectable to man, are easily detected by dogs."

Fascinated, Dr Cognetta teamed up with George and his police handler. The results were astonishing: in one test, the schnauzer sniffed out a melanoma on a subject's body which had only days earlier been described by doctors as a normal mole.

Before his encounter with George, James Garafalo had been told he was cancer-free. The dog's nose gave a different diagnosis. "He began sniffing one spot on my body obsessively so I decided to have the mole removed," said Garafalo.

"When it was tested, they found a potentially deadly set of cancer cells."

Dr Cognetta — interviewed for the new Channel 4 series *Absolutely Animals* — is amazed at what the dog has achieved. However, he warns: "We shouldn't jump to conclusions until further scientific testing is done. I don't want people to have false hopes or expect they can train their dogs at home to do this."

Patrick Riley, Professor of Cell Pathology at University College London, wants further

research in Britain. Despite his natural scepticism, he is willing to believe that George can "sniff out" skin cancer.

"A large amount of black pigment is produced as a melanoma develops and that creates a smell. We cannot detect the odour, but a dog perhaps can and will find it unpleasant. Their nasal sensory surface is the size of a handkerchief while ours is the size of a postage stamp."

"This is certainly worth investigating. Anything which helps in the early diagnosis of skin cancer is to be welcomed greatly. This is a disease that must be nipped in the bud. Undetected, skin cancer spreads very quickly."

Professor Riley says it is possible that, with training, dogs like George may be able to identify more disease signature scents. "Typhoid, diabetes and other illnesses have characteristic scents. Humans can detect the odours in later stages but dogs might be able to identify them earlier."

A dog diagnostician is also playing a central role in the life of Tony Brown-Griffin, who has suffered from epilepsy for the past three years. Her collie, Rupert, senses the onset of a fit and alerts her almost an hour in advance. Once again, scent or another physiological sign is thought to be a key element in the equation. The dog detects an unusual odour present only when its owner is about to suffer a seizure.

Rupert has "alert signals" for his mistress. If she is going to have an attack, he will swing around in front of her and bark loudly until she responds. During a fit, he will start to bark again to alert others. If the seizure lasts for longer than a couple of minutes and no help has arrived, the dog has been trained to operate a panic button on Tony's telephone.

Mrs Brown-Griffin, from Kent, said: "When I am about to have an attack he barks urgently. That is enough time to get home or to a safe place. And if I am about to walk into a potentially dangerous place, such as a road junction, he will stop me."

"Before I had Rupert, I felt trapped in the house. I hardly ever went out — it was simply too dangerous or humiliating. I was almost resigned to becoming a recluse. Having seizures in public was sometimes dangerous as I could hurt myself — Rupert has transformed my life."

The collie's diagnostic gift was polished by Val Strong of the charity Support Dogs. Like George, he was rewarded with a biscuit or affection and approval.

Ms Strong says a close relationship between owner and pet is essential. "Undoubtedly the change in smell plays a part in helping the animal detect the onset of a fit. But communication is just as important. There are all sorts of subtle changes a dog picks up if he or she is tuned in to the sufferer."

● *Absolutely Animals* begins on Channel 4 at 8.30 on Monday.

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Mandelson and the new mandarins

Sue Cameron investigates the Secret Seven who run Whitehall

As you open *The Times* this morning, some of the most influential men in Britain will be meeting in Downing Street to set the agenda for tomorrow's newspapers. Let us call them the Secret Seven.

Only one of those present — the number varies from day to day — has been democratically elected. Most of the others, however, are party placemen. They wield power not because they have been chosen by the voters, nor because they have earned their posts by beating rivals in competitive Civil Service examinations. They are there because they have won favour at the court of Tony Blair. Their ultimate loyalty is not to the public interest, but to Labour.

There has been no public debate about handing power to the men who attend the daily 9am meetings in the warren of rooms that connects Downing Street with the Cabinet Office. Parliament was not consulted. Now Sir Michael Bett, the Civil Service Commissioner, has delivered an open warning to the Government not to fill too many Whitehall posts with party apparatchiks.

The men who roused Sir Michael's concern are Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, and Alistair Campbell, the No 10 press secretary. Both attend the 9am agenda-setting meetings each morning which are chaired by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. Reports from Labour's media-monitoring service are delivered to Mr Campbell and Mr Mandelson at 8am. By 8.45, copies have been sent to all special advisers in Whitehall. At 9, the meeting convenes. The "Big Four" — the Prime Minister, his Deputy, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor — are often represented by their special advisers.

These are new Labour's gatekeepers, the men who have the ear of their masters, who control access to them and who are starting to eclipse politically neutral civil servants like Alex Allan, the Principal Private Secretary at No 10. Mr Allan, who served John Major and continues to serve Mr Blair for the moment, is to be posted abroad. When he goes he will be replaced by Jonathan Powell, who is, of course, the brother of Sir Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's Principal Private Secretary for foreign affairs. There is one crucial difference. Like Mr Allan, Charles was a career civil servant. Jonathan is a Labour Party man.

His appointment and the way Labour's spin-doctors have engineered a place for themselves at the heart of government signify a profound change in Whitehall. Whether the Civil Service was politicised under the Tories is a moot point; it is certainly being politicised now.

Not that Labour failed to give warning of its intentions. In his book *The Blair Revolution*, Mr Mandelson wrote last year that Tony Blair "has to get personal control of the central government machine". Mr Mandelson saw the need for a "stronger political presence in No 10" to provide "political advice", which "nei-

ther the private office nor the Cabinet Office can do, because they are not supposed to get involved in politics... The political office at No 10, the policy unit and the press office all have political roles to play," he wrote, adding that the Prime Minister would need "a non-ministerial political manager inside No 10".

This blueprint for a Blair administration has been followed meticulously. Within 48 hours of coming to power, the Government quietly secured a Privy Council Order giving Messrs. Powell and Campbell — plus one other unnamed person — the right to wield executive authority over regular civil servants. The order was reported at the time, but it was only this week, when Sir Michael blew the whistle, that the Government began claiming that the move was designed to reinforce civil service impartiality.

Nobody in the Civil Service or the media can be in any doubt about where influence lies in this centralised, politically conscious Whitehall — even if things occasionally go awry. Though the Mandelson meeting decided on May 19 that John Prescott's summit on water was to be the big story of the day, the broad-

casters opted to give more prominence to the decision to end the tobacco industry's sponsorship of sporting events. To avoid such blips, additional Labour Party people are being brought into the Government machine, for example into the No 10 press office. Labour's Dave Hill, who sometimes attends the 9am meetings, is also supervising a horde of special advisers who are charged with monitoring Whitehall departments on the party's behalf.

Labour might argue that such moves are less radical than they appear. As John Major's deputy, Michael Heseltine held joint meetings of civil servants and Tory officials every morning to discuss presentation. Labour attacked him for involving Whitehall in party politics. Now Labour is following his example, but the Mandelson group is more tightly focused and effective.

Whitehall's reaction to this politicisation has been muted. Mr Blair is a shrewd operator. One of his first moves was to address the regular Wednesday morning meeting of the permanent secretaries — to such good effect that some returned to their departments in a state of infatuation.

Other countries, including France and America, have politicised civil services in which key members change when the government changes. Such a system brings new blood into the government. It ensures that politicians are served by people who share their goals. But it can also mean that party politics takes precedence over public interest.

Labour's moves may not lead to a return to the favouritism and backstairs intrigue that beset the State before jobbery was abolished in the 19th century, but they will mean a weakening of constitutional checks and balances. If there is to be change it must be with public consent — not by a stealthy transfer of power to the Secret Seven.

John Lloyd on the Government's attempt to square the Northern Irish circle as the marching season looms

Can Blair avoid another Drumcree?

There is a new mural in Belfast's Ormeau Road. Beneath the Irish Tricolour is a simple statement: "Sinn Féin. Stop Orange Marches!" This is the essence of the issue which in six weeks will confront the Government, as the Unionist marching season reaches its height. It now seems that a choice will have to be made between two incompatible ideas of rights; and by choosing one, the Government will court a violent response from the partisans of the other. Orangemen wish to march, as they have for two centuries. Nationalists wish to stop or control them, as they have recently discovered they can do.

The devil in Northern Ireland is in both the principle and the detail. The principle is freedom: Northern Ireland is a laboratory for the testing of freedoms, but no definition yet commands assent across the communities. The details lie on the streets of three small areas.

The first is the Ormeau Road area itself; the second the town of Portadown, south-west of Belfast; and the third the village of Dunloy, in North Antrim. In the largely Catholic village of Dunloy, a hardline Orange leadership insists on absolute freedom to parade. In the Ormeau Road and Portadown, residents' associations led by Sinn Féin resist any kind of march — but talks cannot be held because the Orange lodges refuse to talk to representatives with terrorist connections.

In Portadown a year ago, the police

reversed a decision to ban the march to Drumcree Church, and by forcing the parade through hundreds of protesters drawn partly from the nearby Catholic estates created yet another series of images of "brutality". Drumcree — as it swiftly became known — has been promoted assiduously as a high-point of Unionist triumphalism, supported by the State.

It is not that. It is a morass of Loyalist tradition, now resentful and in some groups violent; of careful stoking of nationalist grievances; of police forced to choose between rights to march and rights to protest against marches. However these elements are judged, Drumcree has been hugely useful to the Sinn Féin cause.

In proclaiming the need to "Stop Orange Marches", Sinn Féin taps a deep well of resentment against a past in which Unionists did beat their lambeg drums all about and through Catholic areas, to emphasise the status of the province. Now, as the Catholic population surges above 40 per cent, as Sinn Féin's vote rises from single figures to around 16 per

cent, as Unionists lose control of the councils in Cookstown, Fermanagh, Strabane and Belfast City (their vote being sullenly apathetic), as the Irish Republic waxes in wealth and self-confidence, Unionism sees itself standing not just on narrow, but on steadily narrowing ground.

How does new Labour address such an old conflict? Dr Marjorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has done so by emphasising the difference in style between her demotic self and the patrician Sir Patrick Mayhew, her Tory predecessor. She has walked about, talked to and in one case embraced those presented to her. She stresses the need for dialogue and tries to promote it. She has been to America to see the powerbrokers of the Irish lobby and to enlist them in the cause of persuading Sinn Féin to cease terrorism so that it can join the talks which begin next week.

But as Prime Minister, Tony Blair has made the running. His speech in Belfast two weeks ago was his largest rhetorical essay since taking office.

He consigned any prospect of a united Ireland to the far into the second half of next century; and by saying "I believe in the Union", he even suggested that as British Prime Minister he wants Northern Ireland to stay British and is not merely acquiescing in the need to preserve the link because the majority in the province demand it.

This is very "new Labour" in its determination to dissolve irrelevant old divisions. With Mowlam playing the Nationalist and Blair the Unionist side of the street — in nuance and style only, of course — can agreement, somehow, be achieved?

No. These are merely the opening gambits. New Labour, knows, or will soon learn, that the government of a territory in contention between two national ambitions faces a choice sooner or later. Unionists believe that a choice was made, and that a long, slow withdrawal has been engineered by the Northern Irish Office, in cahoots with Irish governments as they have undertaken a long, slow takeover. Decried as paranoid, this

version of events remains the most plausible. But when left at that, it is also self-defeating. It prescribes either counter-terrorism or passivity.

Mr Blair's hint that this may not be his position — that he wants to see Northern Ireland actively reconfirmed within the UK — has given David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, a strategy. That strategy is to propose to Unionists and Nationalists that Northern Ireland's constitutional status must be accepted, but that its civic structures must be renewed on the basis of cultivated trust; that the discriminations, exclusions and insults of the past must be faced, admitted and tackled; and that a society of equals is available.

Trimble, at least in some moods, seems to be the leader capable of furthering that vision. But he needs Mowlam and Blair to protect his back against the ever-potent charge of betrayal. He needs to have the union guaranteed. He needs Mr Blair's belief in the union to be reinforced by more than one good speech.

In the devilish details of this summer's marching season, Labour's intent and resolve may become manifest. In making clear the terms under which it will permit marches, or the reasons why it will ban them, it will reveal the drift of its policy. The subtle little step of Drumcree church pokes its way into British politics once more, demanding a response.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Progress may lead backwards

The geometry of politics lends movements a spurious inevitability

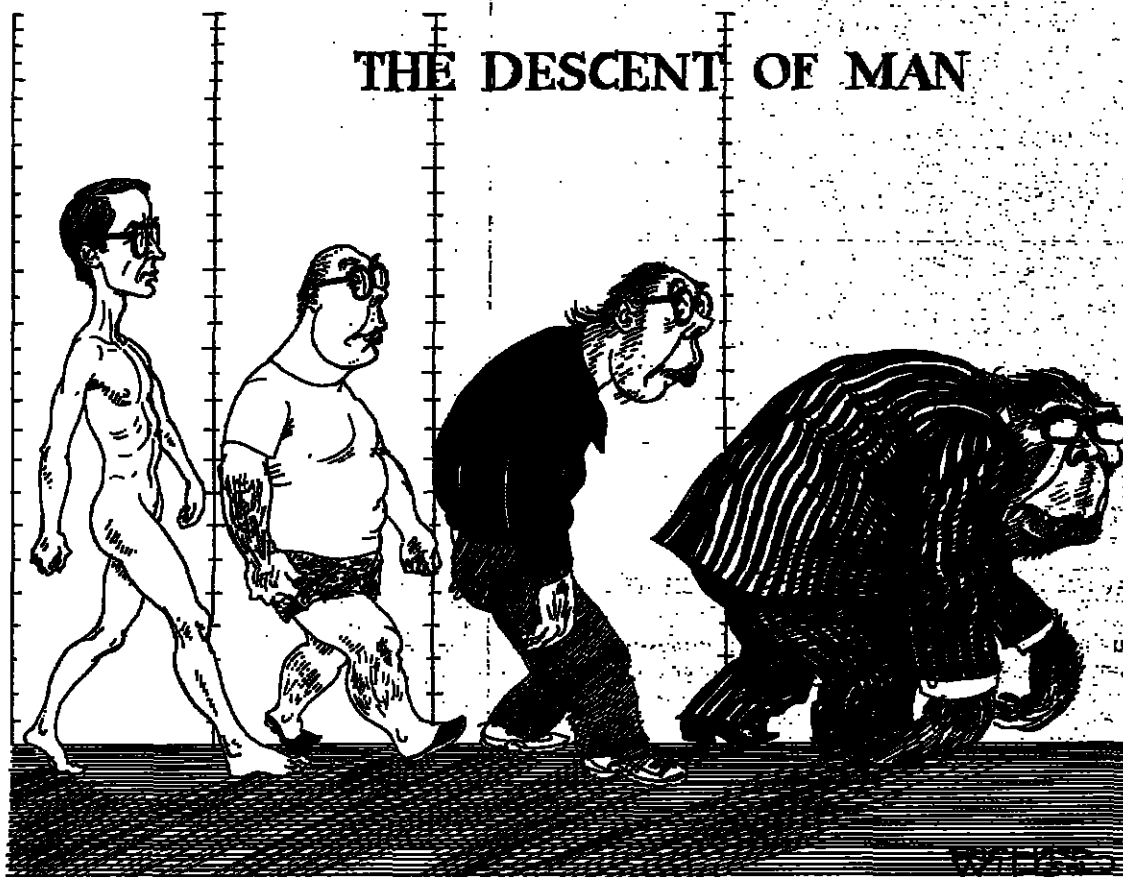
Reviewing Hugh Cecil's social history of homosexuality for this weekend's *Sunday Times*, I was teased by a question which lay outside the ambit of my review, because the author hardly discusses it. This is the question of "progress".

A book like his must make much of the idea of "progress" with homosexual reform, and this concept of progress is what teased me. My doubts are not about the desirability of removing prejudice against homosexuals, but about the word "progress" and the associated idea of "going forward" and "going back" when used to describe political or social change. Applied not to the physical world but to the world of ideas, Newtonian concepts of momentum combine with the sneaky judgmental choice of "forward" and "backward" to describe motion. The effect is subtly to infiltrate philosophy with physics. The process is at best questionable, at worst bogus.

Mr Cecil's powerfully argued contention is that the conviction of Oscar Wilde set back the cause of homosexual emancipation for decades (note "set back"). He shows how the self-publicist Wilde pushed the extravagantly gay life too far, creating a backlash (note "push" and "back-lash"). Later in the book he goes on to describe the resumption of progress towards homosexual equality, and the pace of progress in our own day.

I asked myself whether it was possible now, as it plainly was in 1895, for social change to go into "reverse". Does modern social progress operate on some sort of a ratchet, meaning that the pace of revolution can quicken or slow, even pause occasionally or "retreat" a little before another leap "forward", but cannot be significantly wound back?

The question is just as arresting when applied to the emancipation of women, to the ending of discrimination against black people, or to the "advance" of animal welfare, religious toleration or the disablement lobby. But equally arresting is the use of spatial concepts involving motion in a "forward" direction as the key metaphor for the description of social and political change. How important is this, subliminally, to the potency of an argument? How much of the force



Matthew Parris

of a "progressive" movement derives from the unconscious intuition that it would be futile to try to stop the future coming? Yet fascism once carried just this force, and so did the Holy Roman Empire. The religious revival of the 19th century saw itself as and felt like a progressive movement, though among its indirect consequences was the sexual repression that ground Wilde beneath its heel.

Who can argue with "progress"? The most striking contemporary use of this rhetorical ploy for political ends was Margaret Thatcher's "U-turn" if you want to. The lady's not for turning. End of argument, surely, if one is not to advocate dangerous driving? In the same way, Tony Blair has in recent months developed a habit of responding to left-wing objections to his policies with the expression "we cannot go back to the past". A variation of this is "we cannot return to the arguments of the 1980s". He is also given to remarking "we have to look forward, not back", and that "we must develop policies to go forward to the new millennium".

Of course at the most literal level there is no gainsaying this. Clearly we cannot go back to the past. It is, however, possible to revive policies that were followed in the past. Ironically, "the arguments of the 1980s" to which we "cannot go back" were themselves precisely about going back. Going back to the private own-

ership of coalmines, steelworks, gasworks and railways; going back to the days when the State did not hoist people to a time when trades unions had no legal immunities. But it is notable that Margaret Thatcher rarely used the metaphor of turning back the clock to recommend her policies.

Only in the ethical field ("return to Victorian values") did she enlist the language of retreat for the vocabulary of the onward march has an overwhelming appeal, especially to younger men, there remains a secondary place in the hearts of the frightened, the passive or the insecure for the vocabulary of "going back home": the imagery of haven, of return to the familiar and safe.

Part of Margaret Thatcher's potency was her melding of the two. She was a reactionary with a radical message, best captured in a phrase that Malcolm Rifkind (quoting Giuseppe di Lampedusa) once offered me: "If you want things to stay the same, things are going to have to change." Margaret Thatcher "went back" to the arguments of the 1950s,

the 1920s — even the 1870s. Yet now "going forward to the new millennium" involves not going back over arguments which did take us back — in part — to the century before socialism. But Mr Blair has "hit the ground running". Any fool knows you can only run forward. QED.

I offer these examples — Cecil's "homosexual progress", Thatcher's reluctance to countenance a "U-turn", and Blair's refusal to "go back to the past" — not to dispute their aims. I share all three. I cite them to show how useful the choice of metaphor can be in determining the success of a democratic project.

An objection must be answered: you may protest that it is not politicians' guile but common English, which treats time as a journey in which we travel forward to the future, with the past behind us. In this sense, to say we go forward is only to say we persist. We have all gone forward since the same time yesterday, with the clock — by 24 hours, to be precise.

Alternatively you may protest that the concept of "progressing" — of "taking a step forward" — is simply a metaphor to denote our approval of some change: words like "forward-looking" and "progressive" just mean "changing for the better".

Or you may protest that that innocent metaphor of moving forward has a third useful application: "moving a project forward" (making

progress with it) can simply mean achieving, getting things done, without implying any judgment, good or bad, on what is being done.

And all three protests make a fair point. Are these not simply three ways in which common English usage employs the metaphor of a journey through time? Indeed. We do use "move forward" to mean "move onward in time". We do use it to mean "improve". And we do use it to mean "achieve". Where guile comes in is when speakers tangle these three meanings together. The confusion can propel us into accepting without question that it would be perverse to stop, to change direction, or to undo what has been done because you cannot "stand in the way of progress" or "go back to the past". Yet "going back" may well be — often is — a "forward step". And "progress" with a project may well be a regressive development. The apparent absurdity of such sentiments derives from the use within a single sentence of two metaphors, each drawn from spatial reasoning, but differently employed.

For instance, there is no doubt that fundamentalist Islam, in one sense, makes great progress. All over the Muslim world, women are returning to purdah; in Afghanistan television sets are being destroyed. But to a liberal Westerner there is also a sense in which this is not progress at all. To a Shia it is progress in both senses. An Ayatollah would agree with our Prime Minister that "there is no going back to the arguments of the 1980s" — but he would mean something rather different.

The conflation of these distinct meanings of the metaphor of progress has much to answer for. It may be partly responsible for the Whig idea of the inevitability of liberalism, but it is not confined to liberal propagandists: Nazism inculcated in its adherents a powerful idea of "progress" and momentum, as, for half a century, did communism. That is not to deny that all three offered arguments for the rightness of their causes; but in popular reasoning and rhetoric they relied on being seen as Progress — and therefore to be welcomed. The future must come!

But like all lazy argument, the argument for the inevitability of progress covers with a cloak of apparent reason what may be weak, ill-considered, empty, rotten or simply autocratic. It is not unlike the peremptory parents' "Because" as an answer to a precocious child's "Why?" "There's no stopping progress" can make a movement's rationale appear stronger than it is. Whether met among gay activists, Thatcherites or new Labour evangelists, it should be distrusted. It is as firm, and as brittle, as the crust on a *crème brûlée*.

Powell vaults

THE ANNUAL white-tie dinner at the Royal Academy the other night took on the character of a Whitehall farce after a case of mistaken identity involving two Lady Powells, a missing hearing aid and Sir Isaiah Berlin.

The dinner, held every year since the Academy was founded in 1770,

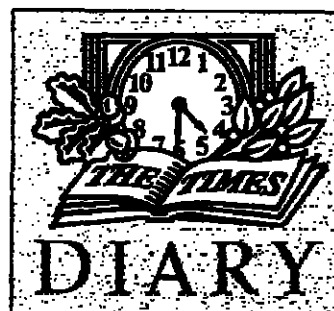
home nearby in London, and tell her to put her togs on sharpish and get down to the Academy.

Meanwhile, the Lady Powell who had been invited — Carla Powell, wife of Baroness Thatcher's former private secretary, Sir Charles, arrived in a flap having forgotten her hearing aid. She sent her driver back home to fetch it just as the other Lady Powell arrived.

The Academy managed to accommodate both Lady Powells for dinner, but were thrown when Carla Powell's driver returned with the missing hearing aid. It was handed to the wrong Lady Powell, whose hearing is sound, just as she was talking to Sir Isaiah Berlin.

Astonished, she handed it to Sir Isaiah, who believed it to be his and promptly slipped it into his pocket. Lady (Carla) Powell went without her hearing aid for the evening: Sir Philip and his wife received strange phone calls about the missing item over the weekend; and when Sir Isaiah returned home that evening, his wife demanded to know why he was in the possession of three hearing aids.

Lord Longford, 91, fell foul of security in the House of Lords on

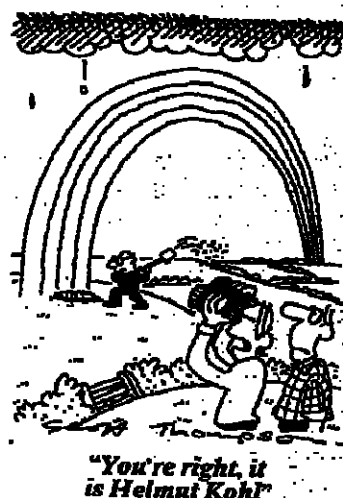


Wednesday afternoon when he was locked in the library while writing the speech he was to deliver that evening at the Catherine Pakenham journalists' awards. "It was the first time I've ever wished I had a mobile telephone," he said later. "I had to bash on the door for about twenty minutes before an attendant heard me and unlocked it."

Yum yum

PRESIDENT CLINTON, a notorious trencherman and hamburger fan, was taking few chances at lunch yesterday with Tony Blair: he brought his own taster with

him from the United States. Under such circumstances, Downing Street chose not to rely on its own staff, and summoned the former head chef of the Dorchester, Annon Mostmann, from Yorkshire, where he was conducting a roadshow for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The meal could not have been more healthy: steamed halibut followed by summer fruits for Clinton and Blair over their working lunch;



grilled sea-bass and a pudding for Hillary and Cherie.

Glibberish comes easily to Mark Rylance, artistic director of the new Globe Theatre. His programme notes for Henry V, in which he performed yesterday for Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair, are a classic: "Imagination is my beginning and end. The words and images I find there have nothing to communicate in form, or sell. They rise or fall from an unknown source and mock all explanation. I believe without my actor's passport to that mediating Globe I would surely be mad or dead." Fortunately, the Shakespeare is more straightforward.

Star turn

THE LATEST addition to the cast of *Love is the Devil*, a British Film Institute production about the artist Francis Bacon, is Stella McCartney. Paul and Linda's seamstress daughter. In her screen debut, she will appear as an extra, along with Anita Pallenberg, star of the censored 1960s film *Performance*. Stella will be on set for one day



McCartney: first role

as a passenger on a London Tube train, says a BFI spokesman. "She doesn't say anything, she just sits there dressed in her own designs," Miss McCartney, who was recently appointed chief designer at the French fashion house Chloé, has always shied away from the cameras but was persuaded to join in by the party-going director, John Maybury.



Lady Carla and Sir Isaiah: confusion at the Academy





CURSE OF MAASTRICHT

The Bundesbank declares war on EMU chicanery

Less than a week after Tony Blair's rapturous reception at Noordwijk, the political battles in France and Germany have made that outbreak of continental euphoria over Labour's election victory suddenly irrelevant. As Blair and Clinton made their almost royal progress about London yesterday, the American President unexpectedly found himself not at the centre of a European drama but well off-stage. The plot has changed overnight, thrusting Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac into the limelight before a throng of jeering, hostile groundlings.

The first act was set in France, where President Chirac will emerge seriously weakened from his electoral gamble. Whichever coalition wins this Sunday, the President has already lost. Even if the Right scrapes through, the ease with which France's dimly lit Socialists have pinned the Government on the ropes has destroyed all M Chirac's hopes of claiming that he has a mandate to squeeze France into trim for economic and monetary union in 1999. This French election may prove far more significant for Europe than Britain's.

Compared with the high drama of the battle between Chancellor Kohl and the Bundesbank, however, that tense first act has the makings of no more than a subplot. The Bundesbank has not only flatly opposed the rash decision of Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, to plug the hole in Germany's finances by revaluing its gold reserves and pocketing the paper profit; it has denounced it as "an attack on Bundesbank independence". By further stating that if EMU goes ahead on the basis of such accounting tricks, it will lack credibility and stability, the bank has confirmed every German's secret fears about giving up the mark.

The Chancellor defiantly insists that he will change the Bundesbank law and press ahead. He has taken on the bank and won once before, over the terms of German monetary unification. But this time, his obsession with EMU has set him on a course that could destroy both his political career and his pet project. Germany's Socialist Opposition may be weak and disorganised, but no more so than the French; this could be

the catalyst that made up the party's mind on EMU. The press is up in arms: so are economists. The Chancellor has only a narrow Bundestag majority and MPs, in their constituencies for the Corpus Christi holiday, are getting an earful from voters.

Even so, the Chancellor may believe that he has no alternative. Were he to retreat now, and raise taxes instead, he would be seen to be acting out of weakness. Voters already reluctant to pay more tax for "Europe" will be even less willing to do so to save the blushes of Herr Kohl and the unloved Herr Waigel. But even if he can quell a political revolt and the law passes, the Bundesbank has powerful weapons left if it is as serious as Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, appears to be.

The bank transfers its annual profits to Bonn after the calendar year ends; it could refuse to transfer the gains from revaluing the reserves until 1998, too late to help Germany meet the Maastricht targets. It is Herr Tietmeyer, not Herr Kohl, who has the vote in the European Monetary Institute, when it decides in January which countries qualify for EMU. Before EMU goes ahead, the German Constitutional Court must also have its say; it would be reluctant to go against a negative Bundesbank assessment.

When it is winning the battle for public opinion hands down, the bank has every interest in prolonging the war. Herr Kohl has linked gold, debt, recession and Europe in the public mind; Germans will be all the more protective of the mark and the Bundesbank, their guarantees against remembered horrors. They may judge that if their own politicians are prepared to trample on the Bundesbank for the sake of EMU, the future European Central Bank will be wide open to political attack. German doubters have been reluctant to speak out against EMU for fear of being stigmatised as anti-European; but now they can take up arms in the name of their most respected national institution. For Europe, this too long delayed confrontation is healthy. But for the hitherto surefooted Herr Kohl this may, as Anatole Kaletsky writes on page 29, be a step too far — the one that takes him over the cliff.

CANARY IN THE MINE

Chris Woodhead is central to improvement in our schools

The energy that Labour has brought to government is nowhere, apart from the Treasury, more visible than in education. From his first press conference, held within hours of taking office, David Blunkett has used every opportunity to stress the commitment of his department to raising educational achievement. The identification of failing schools, the creation of the new School Effectiveness Unit and the admonitions on teaching standards from Stephen Byers, the Minister of State, are all evidence of a welcome sense of purpose. They are also evidence of the influence on the education debate of the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead. In defiance of vested interests within the teaching unions, Mr Woodhead has reassured the importance of traditional teaching and testing. Now, however, having embraced him, Labour appears poised to squeeze him out.

The news that Mr Woodhead has been appointed vice-chairman of a task force to disseminate good practice within state schools would, ordinarily, be entirely welcome. What renders the elevation ominous is the identity of his new colleague, Professor Tim Brighouse. Professor Brighouse is not so much Mr Woodhead's brother-in-arms as his bitter opponent. As Birmingham's Chief Education Officer, Professor Brighouse has proved himself a creature of municipal socialism rather than a promoter of professional excellence. His producer-interest instincts are apparent in his belief that failing schools should be shielded and "supported". The Government, wisely, has preferred to name them and institute a public process to effect improvements.

The manner in which Professor Brighouse's new job will formally be announced does nothing to allay concern. Mr Blunkett is to unveil the details of his new task force to the National Association of Head Teachers' Conference in Scarborough today but the substance of the announcement leaked out yesterday. The coralling of Mr Woodhead with Professor Brighouse was clearly intended to signal to the teaching unions that their concerns about Ofsted were being acknowledged. David Hart of the NAHT certainly took comfort from the news, concluding that "this is the Government's way of bringing the inspector under more direct control". The teaching unions' real hopes are easily discernible behind Mr Hart's cloud of euphemism. They believe not so much that Mr Woodhead will now work far better with the Government, rather that the Government would work far better without him.

Government sources have already argued that they want Ofsted to play a more "constructive" role. Some could see in the Government's treatment of Mr Woodhead, as in its handling of Eddie George, a process closer to constructive dismissal. If the new task force is to "evangelise" why has a proselytiser like Mr Woodhead been teamed with a Pharisee such as Professor Brighouse? Mr Blair admires the work of Ofsted under Mr Woodhead and, certainly, the mechanisms his Government has set in place could serve their avowed shared purpose of levering standards up. Other forces could, however, frustrate the work that needs to be done. Mr Woodhead is the canary in the mine. Mr Blair should ensure he is not knocked off his perch.

VANITY PUBLISHING

Books do furnish the mind as well as the beach

This is the year of the book as fashion accessory. Until now Donald Trump has been celebrated for loves other than his love of literature. But his publicist has announced, in a survey of what celebrities will be taking to the beach, that Mr Trump will be reading Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sign* on his night-dub-fringed holiday. And as our New York correspondent reports on page 17, *Maison & Dixon* by Thomas Pynchon is hitting the best-seller lists hard; no Manhattan glass-top table can be without it.

Critics have called this novel "the easy Pynchon". But "easy" is a comparative word. It depends on who is doing the deconstruction. For the world's most reclusive author is a follower of the Kerouac school of "spontaneous prose". The act of reading Pynchon parallels his protagonists' acts of deciphering an encoded world. His books are anti-detective stories, in which the mystery rather than the solution is the point. When told that he was to be marooned on a desert island, but could have any book by Thomas Pynchon, the castaway might reply: that he would take *Poison*. A Pynchon novel is complex, turgid, erudite and a doorstopper to trip the unwary. Easy, it ain't.

But that is part of its attraction. It belongs to the literary genre entitled "great unreadables". All readers should make their

own lists of such books. Many will set off for the beach with Proust again this summer; but few will reach *Le temps retrouvé* and the moral that "Happiness is good for the body, but sorrow develops the powers of the spirit." Proust should have put that at the beginning. Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* is insufficiently brief for many, who find it a bit long in the middle.

When Umberto Eco followed up *The Name of the Rose* with *Foucault's Pendulum*, a journalist pasted a slip at page 410 of every copy of the stacks piled up at the semiotically-challenging book in Barnes & Noble, the three-storey Washington bookstore. It promised to send \$50 to anybody who posted the slip to the address printed on it. The journalist reported that he did not have to fork out a single \$50-dollar bill.

But the great unreadables make far better fashion accessories than scarves or ties. They are works of man's intellect as well as his vanity. Writing is the only profession in which no one considers the author ridiculous if he earns no money. To be paid and unread is better than merely to be unread. When left lying ostentatiously on the coffee table, an unreadable may attract a reader as well as admiration or envy. And some of them eventually turn into the apotheosis of the great unreadable: a literary classic.

Ex-MPs on Tory leadership battle

From Sir Jim Lester and others

Sir, We are all former Conservative Members of Parliament who lost our seats at the general election on May 1. We are all keen to return to the House of Commons or to maximise the chances of our successors doing so in our constituencies at the next election.

The current Conservative leadership contest will shape the party's image and policies over the next five years. Over the last five years, we spent far too much time as a party arguing among ourselves and far too little explaining how and why Britain's economic success depends on Conservatives being in power. It is a mistake that we need not and must not repeat in Opposition. We believe that the new leader should make the economy and everything that stems from it, not Europe, the central battleground of the Tory attack on Labour.

Some excellent candidates are available as future leader. Of them, the man most likely to keep the economy at the forefront of debate, and make our attack on Labour stick, is without doubt Ken Clarke. He will be seen as the Chancellor who presided over an economic success story that Labour is about to ruin. We saw an early proof of his firepower last Tuesday in a formidable onslaught on Gordon Brown in the House of Commons.

Ken Clarke is above all else a fighter, and it is a fighter — tested both in opposition and in government — that the party now needs to rebuild itself in these difficult times. Ken Clarke is at once experienced and popular. He can communicate effectively both in Parliament and the country. It is difficult to see how the party could do better than choose him, as a basis on which to decisively move on to the offensive, as a strong and united force, preparing for electoral victory.

Yours faithfully,
JIM LESTER
(MP, 1974-79),
ROBERT ATKINS
(MP, 1979-97),
PETER BUTLER
(MP, 1992-97),
TIM RATHBONE
(MP, 1974-97),
MARK ROBINSON
(MP, 1983-87, 1992-97),
MALCOLM THORNTON
(MP, 1979-97),
GARY WALLER
(MP, 1979-97),
4 Trevoise House, Orsett Street, SE11, May 28.

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, Your reports (May 23) concerning the anger of the voluntary party about the decision of the 1922 Committee to select a leader by votes of the parliamentary party alone are correct.

The voluntary wing of the party — the members — has increasingly regarded the parliamentary party as undisciplined and a problem in itself. Individually, MPs are respected; collectively, much less so, and for an Englishman of MPs, representing less than half the English constituencies and none of the Welsh or Scottish, to decide the leadership for years to come is unacceptable.

Members of Conservative Associations know well that they select the MPs, work to get them elected, and substantially provide the cash to run elections and support Conservative Central Office, which has, since Disraeli, "belonged" to the Leader. Now the age of deference has passed they increasingly feel that "He who pays the piper calls the tune".

The National Union of Conservative Associations is right to demand its share of the vote, but the issue goes wider, and demands proper consideration of giving a vote also to Conservative councillors, peers, and MEPs. The new rules, finalised at the end of this year, must be symbolic of a renewed party in which participation and leadership are combined in ways not seen hitherto.

Some of the leadership candidates have wisely said that, if elected, they will re-submit themselves under the new rules. That will resolve the problem, as long as the new rules provide for a full election involving the direct votes of all sections of the Conservative Party. If they do not, the consequences could be dire, with a leader elected by MPs alone being regarded simply as leader of the parliamentary party, not Leader of the party as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
(Conservative MEP for Kent East, 1979-94),
8 Wellmeade Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, May 28.

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, As Conservative MPs elect their leader they should bear in mind Churchill's proposition — with Ardee in mind — that often the people he found the least impressive at the first meeting subsequently proved to be the most able by far. He said that the reverse also applied.

Courage, proven political ability, integrity, wit and tenacity are qualities in short supply. Luckily they are possessed in abundance by Peter Lilley.

Yours sincerely,
TOM BENYON
(Conservative MP for Abingdon, 1979-83),
PO Box 181,
Adstock, Buckingham MK18 2RN,
May 21.

Sponsorship ban could 'save' sports

From Mr R. A. Philips

Sir, Most sponsors of sports (letters, May 21) put their money into high-profile events where television coverage is likely to increase the number of targets for their message. Sponsors who donate large sums of money from the goodness of their heart are few and far between.

Prior to the last Olympics, the oarsman Steven Redgrave, one of Britain's greatest ever Olympians, found it hard to get sponsorship for his amateur sport. Had rowing been a sport that received better television coverage, I am sure that both he and his club, Leander, could have been financially secure well into the next century.

Television draws the sponsors, but it is a double-edged sword. One only has to look across the Atlantic to see what over-commercialisation does to a sport. The sponsors rely on vast TV audiences, and the television companies rely on advertising revenue from commercial breaks before, during and after the coverage. The result is that sports are forced to adjust their rules and format to suit television schedules, sometimes to the detriment of the sportsmen and women.

Perhaps the proposal to ban tobacco sponsorship might save some of our sports from being ruined by the advertising industry. Rather than stop-

ping companies sponsoring sport, may I suggest that the passive advertising of tobacco be banned. It should be an offence to show on British television advertisements for tobacco products in whatever form. If the tobacco companies wish to continue to sponsor sport as a form of moral penance for the damage they do, why not let them.

Yours sincerely,
R. A. PHILIPS,
10 Broughton Avenue,
Ham, Surrey,
May 28.

From Mr Marcus Elliott

Sir, The banning of tobacco company sponsorship of sport will, I hope, have one unplanned beneficial effect.

The ludicrous amount of prize money on offer, which is turning most sports into businesses and many of the stars into money machines, will have to be reduced, perhaps bringing a new sense of reality to what, after all, are only games.

Yours,
MARCUS H. ELLIOTT,
Pen Dinas,
Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy,
May 21.

Sport letters, page 41

Value of Bart's hospital

From Mrs Jenny Edmonds

Sir, Mrs Wendy Mead (letter, May 26) did well to point out the misconceptions on funding which have been allowed to grow regarding the royal and ancient hospital of St Bartholomew.

It is royal because Henry VIII, in one of his wiser moments, granted it a royal charter to serve the poor of London, a maxim which has inspired the generosity of hundreds of benefactors to endow the hospital with the funds of which Mrs Mead wrote. And Bart's is still there with wards, specialised units, operating theatres and, most importantly, beds — all up and running — in the middle of London's worst hospital bed crisis for years. There is no need to spend millions of pounds on the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel to recreate what already exists in Smithfield.

It is ancient because the sick have been treated at Smithfield since, about nine hundred years ago, monks began practising the art of healing. Bart's has continued to lead the field of medicine ever since. The very recent additions to the hospital — at a cost of millions — endorsed the continuing excellence of service that the hospital has shown over the centuries.

Because of the reputation of the hospital's medical and nursing schools, those who trained at Bart's are respected throughout the world and, as a consequence, the hospital has never had difficulty in recruiting people to work and study there.

I cannot think what future generations will say, at the end of the 20th century, such a jewel should be allowed to close.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY EDMONDS,
Old Farm, Vicarage Lane,
Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex,
May 28.

Value of education

From Dr J. C. Lester

Sir, Dr Avner Ofert argues (letter, May 26) that lower income parents often do not have the means to invest in education for the benefit of both their children and society (in other words, that education is a public good), and that this "is why education is everywhere subsidised from taxes".

This is indeed the received wisdom. However, with as much, or as little, argument one can also view this as just another example of the public good myth being used by vested interests to grab tax-exempt money, while working chiefly to their own, uncompetitive, satisfaction. As members of the public lose relatively little individually, they lack the incentive to understand and organise against such predation and shoddy services.

My point is that the benefits of tax-subsidies for education are not as obvious as Dr Ofert suggests. There is a real debate to be had here.

Yours sincerely,
J. C. LESTER,
Middlesex University,
School of Philosophy,
White Hart Lane, N17,
May 28.

Fiji and the Crown

From Mr George Moody-Stuart

Sir, Ganesh Lall's comparison of Fiji's 1990 constitution with apartheid in South Africa (letter, May 12) is totally invalid. The fact is that both before and after the coups of 1987 the relationship between the two main racial groups, the indigenous Fijians and the long-established Indian immigrants, has been enviously good.

The coups were the result of a perceived threat to the Fijian way of life which could have resulted from a government with its roots in a totally different culture. An impartial observer can surely understand this, without necessarily condoning the action which was taken. While the 1990 constitution falls short of perfect democracy, it is in no way oppressive and appears to be acceptable to the great majority of Fiji's citizens.

The Commonwealth has from time to time tolerated some very questionable regimes, presumably in the hope of bringing them to better ways. It should not hesitate to welcome the return of a loyal ex-member, whose record, except on this one very difficult constitutional matter, has been impeccable.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MOODY-STUART
(Managing Director,
Fiji Sugar Corporation, 1977-80),
Annat,
11 Woodfield Lane, Ashted, Surrey,
May 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Courtesy in the House

From Miss Gill Mackenzie,
Honorary Secretary of the
Campaign for Courtesy

Sir, By happy coincidence your report (May 24) about Members of Parliament espousing politeness appeared on the day we were holding our AGM in Central Hall, Westminster. Among other matters, our members discussed the poor behavioural example set by many MPs in the last Parliament.

In one of his poems, William Cowper described women as "the sex whose presence civilises ours". If the presence of so many women in the new intake has this effect on their male colleagues, it augurs well for those of us promoting the benefits of courtesy in our everyday lives.

The consequent restoration of a little dignity in the House would be no bad thing either.

Yours, much encouraged,
GILL MACKENZIE,
Honorary Secretary,
The Campaign for Courtesy,
6 Norman Avenue,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
May 25.

From Professor Emeritus
George Milner

Sir, On October 8, 1987, when Fiji was faced with a crisis for the second time in a few months, you published a letter in which I drew attention to a cruel dilemma for the ethnic Fijians. They were caught between their abiding loyalty to the Crown, gallantly shown in World War II and other conflicts, and their perceived duty to guard the land and the fishing grounds, the roots of their being, from alienation.

A few days later a republic was proclaimed and because of this change of status Fiji lost her membership of the Commonwealth. Yet the Union Jack is still in the place of honour on the flag, the Queen's effigy remains on both coinage and banknotes and the Queen's birthday is kept as a national holiday. The recent news that a petition has been submitted to Her Majesty, with a request for readmittance to the Commonwealth, shows that this most reluctant prodigal son has never lost his deep attachment to the family.

It is greatly to be hoped that at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government conference, due to meet in Edinburgh in October, Her Majesty's Prime Minister will do his utmost to persuade his fellow leaders that on the basis of new constitutional amendments yet to be unveiled, let alone for other compelling reasons, Fiji has a strong case and should be welcomed back into the family of Commonwealth nations.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MILNER,
Cross Tree Cottage,
Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset,
May 23.

Helicopter crash decision to stand

From Mr Tom Pocock

Sir, The Government took the surprising decision last week to support its predecessor's decision against reopening the inquiry into the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash of 1984, in which 29 people, including 25 senior Northern Ireland intelligence officers, were killed (letters, August 24, 1995, April 5, 1996). The verdict of "gross negligence" still applies to the two dead pilots although, as explained by Lord Chalfont in the House of Lords and Martin O'Neill, MP, in the Commons, the Royal Air Force appears to be ignoring its own rule that deceased aircrew should not be blamed for crashes without conclusive evidence.

A fatal accident inquiry under Scottish law attached no blame to the pilots and the president of the RAF board of inquiry was unable to establish the cause of the crash. However, despite this, the final decision was taken, without the production of further evidence, by two senior officers, who seemed to rely on circumstantial evidence in coming to their own harsh and uncompromising verdict. In a *Newsnight* report last week, one commentator said the RAF were, in effect, suggesting that two of their most experienced pilots had carelessly flown into a mountain.

An unanswered question remains: why were those important passengers flown in an aircraft whose suitability for service had been questioned by its own pilot?

Yours faithfully,
TOM POCOCC,
22 Lawrence Street, SW3,
May 29.

Just deserts

From Mr Andrew M. Kelly

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Alan Millard (letter, May 27), when discussing whether universities have a legal duty to provide what they promise, suggests that a degree — like eternal life — has to be earned.

This is perhaps an unfortunate comparison since the Bible states unequivocally:

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it (Ephesians 2, viii and ix, Good News version).

It therefore follows, assuming that the Bible is true, that there will be no prospect of anyone being able to sue St Peter for failure to recognise and reward good works. His task will simply be limited to identifying and welcoming the Lord's family members, whilst excluding others.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW M. KELLY,
80 Ridgeway Crescent,
Orpington, Kent,
May 27.

Dangerous wolf-dogs

From Mr Budd Berkman

Sir, I am a board member of one of the leading wolf-dog sanctuaries in America, and like your animal experts, including the RSPCA, would strongly urge your readers not to acquire a wolf-dog as a pet (report, "Wolf-dogs 'too dangerous' to be kept as pets", May 26).

Our organization exists because, unfortunately, a staggering 90 per cent of wolf-dogs in America are abandoned or put down before the age of two. People who feel they're acquiring a "super watchdog" or an exotic animal to show to friends find the novelty soon wears off as the puppy grows. They do not realize the extremely special care a wolf-dog requires, such as:

Proper containment — minimum 8ft-high fencing with the wire buried at least one foot underground
Companionship — being a "pack" animal, it must have another animal as a companion

Socialization — in a family situation they are unpredictable and they continually assert themselves to find their place in the hierarchy, which easily leads to aggressive behaviour. Remember, we're dealing with an animal with predatory instincts; perfectly normal and healthy for a wolf in the wild, potentially dangerous for a neighborhood pet.

Though extremely intelligent, wolf-dogs are almost impossible to train. They will do what they want, when they want, and should not be brought up in a domestic environment.

We'd rather not have to open a sanctuary in England.

Yours faithfully,
BUDD BERKMAN,
Member, Board of Directors,
Candy Kitchen Rescue Ranch,
Ramah, New Mexico, 87321,
May 27.

Water off a duck's back

From Mr Tony Fuller

Sir, If it takes ten plastic ducks @ £1 each to provide clean water for life for an Ethiopian (report and photograph, May 27), how many ducks would it take to do the same for a British consumer?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FULLER,
Beech House,
Worcester Road,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
May 27.

OBITUARIES

ALISON ADBURGHAM

Alison Adburgham, journalist and social historian, died on May 23 aged 85. She was born on January 28, 1912.

It was fashion's "aura of the irrational", its "quirks of capriciousness" which delighted Alison Adburgham. Her quick pen skewered the vanities and insanities of her age. As fashion editor of *The Guardian* for twenty years she travelled from New York to Copenhagen, from Rome to Capri, in what she was to describe as "a hallucinatory world of ballyhoo and baloney, scotch on the rocks and caviar, champagne and couture's kisses."

Fashion in those days was a major commercial event. The parties were endless. Ascher at the Carlton, on the Sunday before the show started. Helena Rubinstein in her millionaire's apartment on the Ile de la Cité, Pierre Cardin, "disturbingly handsome", giving *diners intimés* to at least 100 intimates, and Dior gatherings in candlelit wings of Versailles. But, throughout, Adburgham kept a keen eye open. She remained always alert.

Unlike the usually myopic writers in her field, she was also versed in the history of her subject. In her articles she set each collection in a long perspective, yet pinned it precisely to its season by deft, modish adjectives.

seemed to sense, however, that people, no longer wanted to hear about fashion in its wider context. "They don't want to know about what's in the air, but what's in the shops — in their size, at a price they can pay," she said. Helping people shop might have been a useful service, but it was simply a merchandising job, not an art. On retiring from *The Guardian* in 1973 she wrote: "I look back with nostalgia to the time when there were no sessions with model girls, no pictures and captions, the time when I just wrote what was in my head."

Alison Haig (as she was before her marriage) was not born into the dizzy world of fashion. Her father was a doctor in Yeovil, Somerset. Her mother, who had been one of the first women to take a degree at Aberdeen University, was a rather distant figure who exercised her considerable intellect mainly in playing Bridge. Alison was taught at home until the age of 12 by a governess whom she shared with a neighbour's daughter. She then won a scholarship to Roedean.

Her family were not wealthy and after leaving school Alison had to find a job. She had a flair for writing and put this talent to use by taking a job as an advertising copywriter, work for which her needle-sharp wit and steady observation were well suited. In the 1930s, however, she met and married a fellow copy-

writer and retreated into domesticity to look after her growing family.

It was only at the end of the Second World War that Adburgham began to write again, this time for *Punch*, a magazine which prided itself on recording the changing face of English society, largely through its emphasis of the ludicrous and the trivial. The book which Adburgham later published, *The Punch History of Manners and Modes* (1961), put the frivolities of the years 1841-1939 concisely and sympathetically in their context. Her deft selection of material showed how the moral, political, social and economic condition of society was neatly reflected by rise and fall of the hair, hem-line and bosom or the fluctuations of curfew time for young ladies soldiering home from a ball.

After a year with *Punch*, Adburgham daringly dispatched a letter to A.P. Wadsworth, Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, suggesting that she should begin a fortnightly fashion column. At that time there were none of the fashion or style pages so familiar in modern broadsheets and in a stern interview Wadsworth gave the impression that such frivolities were corrupting. However, he accepted her proposal, though with the strict injunction that no trade names were to be mentioned. Photographs were not discussed, much to Adburgham's relief. "I should

not have known how to set about getting them," she later said.

It was left to her wittily descriptive pen to capture such moments as that in which the Duke of Bedford alighted from a helicopter on the lawn of Woburn Abbey in the company of Madame Mag Cornou, a 60-inch hip model from Paris, dressed "in pink petalled nylon like a gorgeous peony". She was the president of the Club Sympathique des Femmes Fortes de Paris and had come to attend a luncheon and outside fashion show given in the Woburn sculpture gallery for London's Large Girl Club. Nor were there pictures, Adburgham later recalled, to show "Mary Quant's ruffled bosoms in all their asymmetrical hilarity", or Lady Dicker's motor car with zebra upholstery, "because she considered mink too hot to sit on". It was to be several years before Frank Martin was employed as a fashion photographer for her pages.

In 1964 Adburgham published *Shops and Shopping*, a book whose discreet title masked considerable scholarship. Covering the period from 1800 to the beginning of the First World War, it touched on everything from free trade to the emancipation of women, from the expansion of London to the evolution of advertising. Adburgham brought her account alive with quaint detail and oral history: the Burlington Arcade was started as "a

piazza for all hardware, wearing apparel and articles not offensive in appearance nor smell; "Dear me" said an Edwardian beauty, mystified by the modern use of deodorants, "the gentlemen used to like what we called a bouquet de corsage."

But beyond her formidable knowledge of the world of fashion, Adburgham had another serious interest. After retiring from *The Guardian* in 1973 she wrote *Women in Print* (1974) — what she modestly described as "an initial rescue work" — a history of the pre-Victorian women who had earned their living by writing for the press.

In later years she retired to live in Little Fetherick in north Cornwall. There she indulged herself in her favourite pastime, reading. She began research on another book about "silver fork" fiction — *louches* novels published at the end of the 19th century which explored the pretensions of those who aspired to the fashionable world. They were called "silver fork" after the affectation of those who insisted on using special silver cutlery to eat fish. In 1983 she published *Silver Fork Society*, a study of these almost forgotten novelists. She also wrote *A Radical Aristocrat* (1990), a biography of Sir William Molesworth, the 19th-century Cabinet Minister.

Adburgham's marriage was dissolved. She is survived by two sons and two daughters.



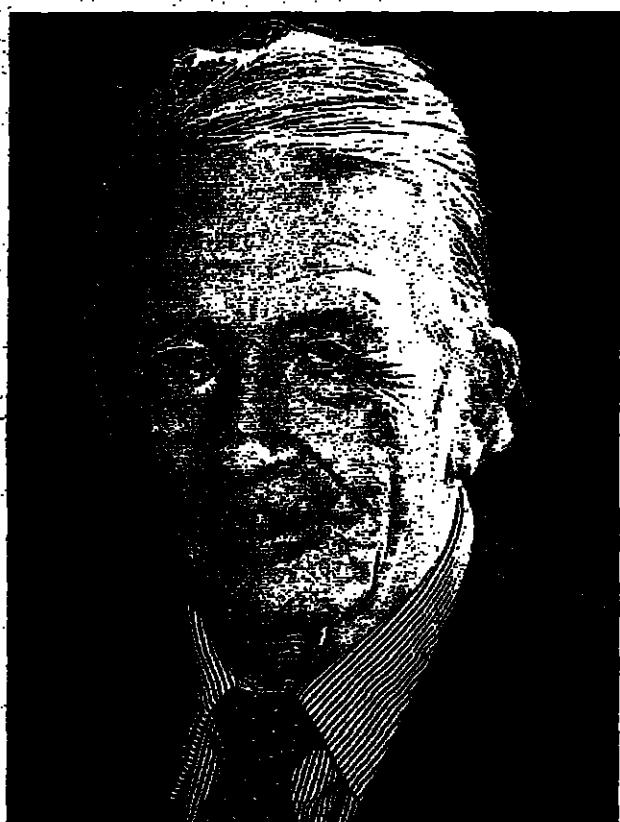
KLAUS VON BISMARCK

Klaus von Bismarck, former head of Westdeutsche Rundfunk and President of the Goethe Institute, died on May 22 aged 85. He was born on March 6, 1912.

IN A notable career of German public service, Klaus von Bismarck showed how a traditional Prussian belief in honour and duty may be combined with a strong sense of liberalism and independence. Whether as head of his country's biggest broadcaster, Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR) in Cologne, or as president of the Goethe Institute, Germany's equivalent of the British Council, he showed a resolute tolerance and a determination to resist political interference from whatever direction it might come.

Klaus Hans Herbert von Bismarck was a great-great nephew of the Iron Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. He was born in Pomerania, and grew up there on the family estates of Jarchlin and Kniefhof which are now in Poland.

After studying estate management and enrolling as an officer in the reserve, he served during the Second World War with distinction in Russia, Poland and France, winning the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves as commander of the



however, he came to admit that this belief had been mistaken, and later regarded his lack of resistance to the Nazis as a source of shame. His wife's sister had been the fiancée of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor who played a leading role in the opposition to Hitler until his execution in April 1945.

The values of Protestant Christianity had always been strong in Bismarck's family, and after the war he devoted himself to youth and social work on behalf of the Church. At the Vlotho youth centre which he founded and which became an important focus of youth work in northern Germany, he encouraged co-operation between groups of varying religious and political affiliations. In 1949 he became head of the social work department of the Protestant Church in Westphalia; with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Essen, he embarked on a joint initiative dedicated to the welfare of local miners. His involvement in Church affairs culminated in his presidency of the German Protestant Church Congress, 1977-79. He was for several years a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

When the political map of Europe was redrawn after the war, Bismarck had refused to

4th Infantry Regiment.

Like many other members of the Prussian officer class, brought up in a remote tradition of patriotism and conservatism that was poor preparation for the grubby

imperatives of politics, let alone the vicious brutalities of a criminal regime. Bismarck had believed that it was possible for a soldier to serve with honour a dishonourable cause. Unlike many others,

join those members of his class — and of his own family — who demanded the restoration of property and lands expropriated by the new regimes of East Germany or Poland. Instead he made reconciliation his priority, and the forging of closer links with the socialist countries of eastern Europe was to be a feature of his work both at WDR and the Goethe Institute.

He was appointed head of WDR, responsible for broadcasting to the most densely populated state of the Federal Republic, in December 1960. Although his candidacy had the backing of a conservative political party, the CDU, he quickly showed his editorial independence at all costs and to allow free expression to the widest possible spectrum of opinion.

Reappointed for two further terms in 1965 and 1971, he helped to establish WDR as one of Germany's most important artistic and intellectual forums. Music, in particular, was able to thrive under his direction. WDR's contemporary music series, *Musik der Zeit*, broadcast premieres of major works by such composers as Karlheinz Stockhausen, György Ligeti and Mauricio Kagel, while Bismarck's interest in eastern Europe encouraged spectacular performances of sacred works by Krzysztof Penderecki in the cathedrals of Münster and Cologne.

In 1977 he became president of the Goethe Institute, dedicated "to the cultivation of the German language abroad for the promotion of international cultural collaboration". Here, once more, he used his considerable diplomatic skills to resist any political pressures that might be brought to bear; the institute, he insisted, must be able to give foreigners the broadest possible picture of German culture, rather than simply following some government line.

His period in office (twice extended, in 1981 and 1985) saw increased cultural co-operation with eastern Europe, and branches of the institute were opened in Romania and Hungary.

Klaus von Bismarck married Ruth-Alice von Wedemeyer in 1939. They had seven sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR PETER ROWE

Peter Rowe, Professor of Soil Mechanics at Manchester University, 1963-82, died in Kendal, Cumbria, on April 28 aged 74. He was born in Bath on July 2, 1922.

ONE of Britain's most distinguished civil engineers, Peter Rowe acted as the geotechnical consultant on numerous construction projects throughout the world, ranging from oil platforms, through reservoirs to giant tidal barriers. His expertise on the composition and behaviour of different types of soil under a wide variety of conditions was sought from The Netherlands to Bangladesh and Hong Kong, as well as in the high Arctic.

He was geotechnical consultant to two large British reservoirs, the Derwent in Derbyshire (1956-66) and the Kielder in the shadow of the Cheviots (1972-82). Among the nuclear power stations for whose foundations he was consultant were the Oldbury and the Torness. He was called in to advise on the siting of the huge closure barrier which dams the tidal waters of the Oosterschelde in Holland. In a completely different sphere he advised on the foundations for 180,000-ton grain silos on a young coral reef in Saudi Arabia, and was closely involved in preventing the sinking of Venice.

In addition, his knowledge of soil mechanics made him a natural choice as an expert investigator into the causes of sudden subsidences and sinkages of structures, all over the world. He often appeared as an expert witness in litigation associated with such occurrences.

Peter Walter Rowe was educated at Bristol Grammar School, from where he won a scholarship to the University of Bristol where he took a first in Civil Engineering. It was the middle of the war and he next joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough where he spent two years and wrote two papers on his work there.

The next two years were with Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons, the only period during his long career when he did

not publish any papers. He then decided to take up teaching and in 1947 moved to St Andrews University, where he took his PhD in 1950. In 1952 he left to become a lecturer at Manchester University where he took a DSc in 1956 and was made Professor of Soil Mechanics in 1963.

While at St Andrews he had become interested in retaining walls and, in particular, anchored sheet pile walls. This interest in earth pressures continued at Manchester, and from 1949 to 1961 he produced twenty or more papers on this subject, some of which were published in the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. The first paper, *Anchored sheet-pile walls*, published in 1952, was awarded a Telford Premium by the Institution of Civil Engineers, and Karl Terzaghi based his own important paper *Anchored bulkheads* on Rowe's flexibility concepts.

Later, Rowe turned his attention to stress dilatancy concepts. This proved to be a controversial area of his work which stimulated much thought and discussion in the profession and culminated in papers to the Royal Society. In 1972 he presented the 12th Rankine lecture to the British Geotechnical Society, his subject being *The relevance of soil fabric to site investigation*.

practice. This paper, which followed years of research at Manchester, was universally accepted as being a milestone in the development of geotechnical engineering.

This academic career went hand in hand with an increasingly busy life as a consultant from 1956 onwards; besides acting as an expert witness in more than thirty cases of litigation over 40 years. In all this time he was much in demand as a lecturer in Europe, America and the Far East, and gleaned awards from engineering institutions all over the world. He published a hundred papers, some of which have been used in the preparation of text books and codes of practice on site investigation, earthworks and sheet piling.

Rowe was a warm, modest man and a generous host who had a perceptive mind and an endless capacity for hard work. He loved the countryside and spent many happy hours with his family in the Lake District. He was passionately fond of music and in his earlier days, played the violin in the Dundee String Orchestra.

He is survived by his wife Ann, a son and daughter, and by the three daughters of his first marriage to Dorothy Watson Bracewell.



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MANCHESTER UNITED MAKE HISTORY

By JAKE ECCLESTONE
Manchester United added a new chapter to the history of football at Wembley Stadium last night, beating Benfica, the champions of Portugal, 4-1 after extra time in the final of the European Cup — the first English club to win this great trophy.
Appropriately, it was Bobby Charlton, for so long the idol of football fans everywhere, who made two of the decisive strikes. Ten years after surviving the Munich air crash, which destroyed the "Busby Babes", Charlton and Matt Busby, United's manager, have reached the one pinnacle of European football which had always eluded them.
And how fitting, too, that this memorable triumph should go now to a club which has done so much for the game England first gave to the world.
The match was watched by a crowd of 100,000 — 10,000 of them from Portugal — and an estimated 250 million television viewers throughout Europe, the biggest television audience since the World Cup final of two years ago at this same stadium.
The great bow is silent and dark, as I write, but echoing yet to the singing of tens of

ON THIS DAY

May 30, 1968
To Celtic fell the honour of being the first British club to win the European Cup, beating Internazionale Milan in 1967. This match was won in extra time: United's goals came from Best, Kidd and Charlton (twice).
Thousands of Mancunians, Manchester United now move on to yet another challenge — the World Cup championship against the Argentines of Estudiantes. This next hurdle was where Celtic, of Scotland, fell last year after winning the European Cup in Lisbon.
Matt Busby, United's manager through all their moments of triumph and tragedy for more than 20 years, was understandably moved and jubilant after the match.
"They've done us proud," he said. "They came back with all their hearts to show everyone what Manchester United are made of. This is the most wonderful thing that has happened in my life, and I am the proudest

man in England tonight. The European Cup has been the ambition of everyone in the club, and now we have it at last."
Suggestions that he might now think of retiring brought a quick, happy answer: "I'm staying where I am until people get fed up with me or until I feel I have got beyond it."
The Benfica manager, Otto Glória, was glum, not to say sombre, but he was quick to pay tribute to Manchester: "The title is in very, very good hands with Manchester United. They are a very good club indeed, very strong, although it was a big advantage for them to play at home."
He added cryptically: "Some of the players, like Torres and Coluna, felt difficulty early on because of the shocks, and couldn't produce the good football that they can play in better conditions" — presumably a reference to the many fouls in the first half.
The Manchester United players were bubbling, laughing and joking among one another — Slites, goalkeepers and face split by a huge grin: Charlton, stripped to the waist, his lined face lit up with happiness. Charlton's first remark was typical of his thoughtfulness: "It's a funny game, isn't it? You learn something every day. I thought I'd missed that first goal. Then they came back, but everybody picked themselves up."

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1997



The difference of opinion between Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, left, and Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, threatens to undermine EMU

German gold
row adds
to worries
over EMU

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPEAN markets are facing a turbulent week as fears grow that the dispute between the Bundesbank and the German Government will undermine economic monetary union. The mark endured an uncomfortable ride on the foreign exchanges yesterday, as investors moved into "safe haven" currencies such as the dollar, pound and Swiss franc.

The dollar gained nearly two pence against the mark to hit a day high of DM1.7067, while the pound rose from DM2.790 to DM2.7905.

But the mark recovered after Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, insisted that he would proceed with the gold revaluation plan and that the single currency would still start on time. The mark clawed back most of its losses against the pound to close at DM2.7827, while rebounding to DM1.6993 versus the dollar.

Herr Waigel also attempted to reassure the markets that none of the profits from the revaluation would be used to reduce the German Government's budget deficit. But the financial markets remained unconvinced of the intentions of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. Julian Callow, European economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "It is unclear what the Government is doing. If it is not overt trickery then why bother at all, because it will only have a limited impact on the deficit and has been a public relations disaster."

row with the Dax 30 closing up 7.79 points to 3,637.77.

Ken Wattret, European economist at Paribas, said: "The markets are confused, which could cause some big swings over the next few days. But the damage has been done to the credibility of German fiscal policy, which will place pressure on German bonds and the mark."

City economists believe the German Government's determination to push forward with its revaluation plan against the wishes of Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, suggest Bonn is more concerned that the euro starts on time than it is a "hard" currency. The possible victory of the Socialists in the French election is also casting a cloud over the market with Lionel Jospin, the

BUSINESS
TODAYSTOCK MARKET
INDICES

FTSE 100	4672.3	(-5.2)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2220.52	(-1.88)
Nikkei	20312.23	(-39.11)
New York		
Dow Jones	7325.46	(-31.77)*
S&P Composite	844.21	(-3.00)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	95 1/8%	(94 1/8%)
Yield	7.01%	(7.03%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	112 1/4	(112 1/4)

STERLING

New York	1.6408*	(1.6407)
London	1.6397	(1.6392)
DM	2.7820	(2.7795)
FF	9.4384	(9.3967)
SF	2.3111	(2.3188)
Yen	190.15	(189.12)
E Index	99.1	(99.0)

DOLLAR

London	1.6990*	(1.6955)
DM	5.7405*	(5.7275)
FF	1.4118*	(1.4105)
SF	116.25	(115.85)
Yen	102.4	(102.5)

Tokyo close Yen 116.27

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$19.75	(\$19.40)

GOLD

London close	\$344.55	(\$344.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

ScotAm wasted £10m on
aborted flotation strategy

By CAROLINE MERRELL

SCOTTISH AMICABLE, the Stirling-based life company, wasted more than £10 million on its aborted attempts to float earlier this year.

The figure made up a large part of the £34 million that it cost for ScotAm to demutualise and ultimately to become part of the Prudential Corporation. The cost was equivalent to more than £20 for each ScotAm policyholder. The money will pay advisers' fees and the costs of mailing 1.1 million policyholders with details of Prudential's offer. ScotAm's advisers in-

clude SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, Freshfields, the City law firm, and Tillinghast, the consulting actuary.

The flotation plan would have involved a £400 million cash injection from Swiss Re. But the plan attracted a deluge of criticism from independent financial advisers and policyholders, who attacked the company's directors for giving themselves the opportunity of earning six-figure salaries while, at the same time, offering policyholders only a few hundred pounds for giving up ownership of the company.

Under the deal offered by Prudential, which succeeded in winning ScotAm in a three-

way bid against AMP, the Australian insurer, and Abbey National, ScotAm's with-profit policyholders will get an average of £1,400.

The new deal does not include an expensive director remuneration package. Instead, ScotAm's 11 senior executives, including Roy Nicholson, the managing director, will be retained on their existing contracts for six months. If they stay on after that they will be paid a bonus of three months' salary.

If the Prudential deal is accepted by ScotAm's policyholders the £4 billion with-profit fund will be closed. The money from new policies sold

by ScotAm will be invested through Prudential Portfolio Managers (PPM), leaving a question mark over the future of Scottish Amicable Investment Management (SAIM).

As well as managing ScotAm's money, SAIM, which employs 150 staff, is also responsible for managing £9 billion on behalf of other institutions.

Prudential's offer will be put to ScotAm's policyholders at a special general meeting on June 27. If agreed, the deal should be completed in September.

The £1,400 windfall will be paid to ScotAm policyholders in a mixture of cash and

additional policy bonuses. All qualifying policyholders will get £250 in cash. Even those who took out policies as late as May 28 will get the £250.

Some policyholders will also get a variable amount of cash based on the type of policy and the time it has been in force. The additional bonuses include an average of £427 to be added to each policy immediately, in addition to an average of £481 to be included when each policy matures. The amounts actually added will depend again on the length of time that the policy has been in force.

Commentary, page 27

Heron in £100m
City development

By CARL MORTSHED

HERON International, the property group run by Gerald Ronson, revived memories of the office property boom of the late Eighties with the launch yesterday of a £100 million speculative office development programme in the City of London.

Heron has agreed to buy a long leasehold interest in a former bomb-site around the new Thameslink station at Ludgate Circus. The vendor, the City Corporation, has granted permission for Heron to build a five-storey, 700,000 sq ft office block. Heron has also obtained planning consent to build a new 90,000 sq ft office building near by at 11/13 Holborn Viaduct.

Heron has yet to find ten-

ants for both buildings, which are expected to have a combined end value of £100 million and will be completed in the autumn of 1999. Mr Ronson, who spent six months in prison after his role in the Guinness financial scandal, said that the two developments reflected the company's long-term confidence in City property. "We are beginning to see increasing demand for prime quality office accommodation," he said.

The Heron developments will compete with other major projects, such as MEPC's Peterhill development near St Paul's, the redevelopment of the old Daily Express offices in Fleet Street and the Daily Mirror site at Fetter Lane.

Seagram sale
fuels talk
of merger

SPECULATION that Seagram is planning a merger with Allied Domecq, the British pubs and drinks group, intensified yesterday after the Canadian spirits and entertainment group boosted its reserves by \$1.4 billion Eric Reguly writes.

Seagram raised the money by selling 30 million shares of Time Warner, the media group, to Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street broker. The company retains another 26.8 million Time Warner shares.

Analysts think Seagram is preparing to expand in the spirits business and is trying to strike a deal with Allied. The City expects a wave of consolidations in the wake of the proposed £24 billion merger of Guinness and GrandMet.

Tinestown gloom, page 29

BAe grounds Jetstream
with loss of 380 jobs

By MARTIN WALLER

THE last whole aircraft to be produced in Scotland will roll out of British Aerospace's factory in Prestwick, Ayrshire, by the end of the year, when the company plans to cease production of the Jetstream 41 turboprop at a cost of 380 jobs.

More than 1,000 workers remain at the site producing aircraft parts such as the wings of BAe's Avro Regional Jet. The company hopes to find fresh work for Prestwick in the form of contributions to other craft, such as the Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol craft.

"There are never guarantees these days, but there is the intention to keep Prestwick going," said a spokesman.

"We see Prestwick continuing to do aerospace business, and we intend to put as much work into there as possible."

While there was dejection among the workforce, the City put 26p onto the shares, which closed at £12.51 a share. The company is taking a £250 million charge against figures for the first half of 1997, when these are produced in September, after an £80 million tax credit, to pay for the end of production and the associated reorganisation.

The actual cash cost of this will be £220 million, £120 million to be spent by the end of next year. The company reckons to have lost about £1 million for every one of the 30-seater passenger craft pro-

duced in recent years, and says profits last year of £425 million before tax would have been £40 million higher had production ended in 1995.

Prestwick opened in 1935, spending much of the war years modifying imported US craft for service. The first craft produced were the postwar Pioneer and Twin Pioneer ranges for the RAF, and the facility has also built the Bulldog two-seater trainer used by the RAF.

The factory is the last one in Scotland making whole aircraft. The Jetstream line was first made by Scottish Aviation, Prestwick's former owner, in the early 1970s, the latest, the J41, started production four years ago.

Eurotunnel says dividends to be paid from 2006

By OLIVER AUGUST

EUROTUNNEL is expecting to pay dividends from 2006 onwards as part of its £4.4 billion financial restructuring plan which was finally published yesterday.

The scheme has been approved by Eurotunnel's leading lenders, but goes before shareholders in July with two large groups of French investors saying they will oppose the restructuring.

The debt-ridden Channel Tunnel operator is forecasting that it will actually make a profit by 2005, helped by price increases on Le Shuttle, its freight service.

Patrick Ponsolle, the joint executive chairman, said: "Our customers tell us we provide a premium service, and a premium service deserves a premium price."

The Anglo-French company said it will reverse the tide in the price war with Channel ferries, which tried to undercut Le Shuttle in 1996 to retain market share. Bill

Dix, the managing director of Le Shuttle, said he had studied the ferry companies' cost structure and is convinced that they cannot maintain current levels. He said: "Our aspirations to win market share are still quite significant."

Earnings will be boosted further by an expected drop in operational expenditure as the result of a cost-cutting exercise. Overall the group expects revenue to grow about 35 per cent over the next three years. In 1997, the company expects to make a net loss of Fr2.7 billion, compared with Fr6 billion last year.

Earnings from Le Shuttle will more than double during this period, but only after dropping slightly in 1997 because of the shutdown after last year's fire. The first lorries involved in customer trials rolled on to freight shuttles at Folkestone and Calais on Wednesday. The restruc-

turing package has to be approved by shareholders at a meeting on July 10 in Paris and by creditors in the autumn. M Ponsolle said the company faced bankruptcy if the package was rejected. He said: "This plan is not perfect, but it is, nevertheless, the best possible one in the circumstances. It is the only solution possible."

At the much-criticised 1994 share issue, the company had forecast that dividend payments would begin in 2003. M Ponsolle emphasised that the new forecast of 2006 was an "upper case scenario". In the "lower case scenario" dividend payments may not begin until 2010.

At the end of the restructuring, original shareholders are expected to be left with a slim majority of the shares.

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T02



Dividend news is like a light at the end of the tunnel

United Utilities puts case for low windfall tax

BY ADAM JONES

UNITED UTILITIES made a plea for lenient treatment from the new Labour Government yesterday, saying it is already passing privatisation benefits to customers.

Unveiling muted full-year profits, the combined water and electricity company said £64 million had been returned so far. Customers of its North West Water subsidiary are receiving a rebate of £10 for 1997-98, an increase of 54 per cent on last year.

United has written to Labour to oppose its proposed windfall tax, but has received no reply. Yesterday, Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, who was dubbed "king of the fat cats" by Labour before the election, said: "We do not believe that any such windfall

has occurred." He hoped attempts to return cash to customers, marketed as "progress with responsibility", would soften any levy.

United announced pre-tax profits of £444 million (£340 million) before exceptional costs. An £83 million charge from a problematic sewage works contract in Bangkok was expected. Turnover rose 29 per cent to £2.38 billion.

The company was formed after North West Water bought Norweb, the regional electricity company, in 1995. It said yesterday that predicted integration savings of £474 million by the year 2000 should be achieved.

Overall water leakage was down from 33.5 per cent to

30.6 per cent. An average of about 700 million litres were lost through leaks per day in 1996-97. The company said a hosepipe ban was unlikely this summer.

A final dividend of 25.2p (19.59p) is due to be paid on October 1, making a total of 37.2p (32.66p) for the year. The shares closed down 3p at 700p.

South West Water yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £133 million, up 21.5 per cent. A £15 rebate was paid to customers in March at a cost of £10 million.

Non-regulated businesses, one of the most desired growth areas for utilities in the light of windfall tax expectations, contributed profit before tax of £8.6 million, an increase from £5.1 million.

□ South West issued a warning that rainfall levels were dangerously low in parts of Cornwall, although fewer leaks and manageable customer demand should make restrictions unlikely. A final dividend of 24.9p (20.7p) is due on October 1, making a total of 36.7p (30.5p) for the year.

□ Mid-Kent Holdings announced a 12 per cent increase in full-year, pre-tax profits to £13.8 million yesterday. A final dividend of 18p (17.75p) is due on July 29, making a total of 30p (24p) for the year. The shares rose 10p to 580p.

Distributors feel heat

THE electricity industry watchdog has turned the heat up on the local distribution companies by threatening them with financial penalties if they fail to meet next spring's deadline for a fully competitive market (Martin Walker writes).

Stephen Littlechild said three of the 14 companies should be ready by the April

target. Almost all would be ready by July, except possibly Southern Electric.

Penalties would be applied to reduce any temptation to enter the market late, which could involve a clawback of the amounts companies have been allowed to add to power bills to pay for the work needed to bring in competition.



Ian Harvey and Rusi Kathoke with a plant being used to test BTG's new pesticide

BTG banks on Torotrak

BY PAUL DURMAN

BTG, the company that commercialises new inventions, is investing another £12.5 million in Torotrak, its innovative transmission technology.

Torotrak's infinitely variable transmission system, which offers fuel-saving benefits, is under test with some of the world's leading carmakers, including Ford and Toyota. BTG has said Torotrak could easily be worth £50 million a year if adopted.

BTG intends to spend the £12.5 million developing

Torotrak further, improving its durability, cost, size and weight. The company believes that the first vehicles equipped with Torotrak, probably tractors, could be launched next year.

The Torotrak investment is part of £25 million that the company is raising by placing shares with institutional investors at 603p. Ian Harvey, chief executive, has sold £814,050 of shares, and Rusi Kathoke, the finance director, has sold £338,000 worth. Mr Kathoke said that most of

these shares were being sold to meet PAYE tax liabilities.

Mr Kathoke said that BTG wanted the other £12.5 million it was raising because it still had "far more opportunities than resources". BTG shares continued their rise, adding 35p to reach 657½p.

The company reported unchanged losses of £2.7 million on increased revenue of £22.5 million. It will pay an increased dividend of 0.88p a share on August 8.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SFA fines broker £65,000 for laxness

THE Securities and Futures Authority has fined Quilter & Co, the stockbroking subsidiary of Commercial Union, £65,000 plus £20,000 costs for laxness. The regulator identified "internal control and compliance failings within the firm's dividends department" between February 1992 and December 1995. They included failure to reconcile dividend ledgers on a timely basis, failure to adequately segregate duties and failure to ensure independent checking of work. SFA also found inadequate compliance procedures within the back office and dividends department.

Imro, the investment management regulator, has fined Canada Life Management (UK) £50,000, plus costs of £23,392, for rule breaches between March 1995 and May 1996. It found that the manager had failed to invest pension fund customers' money on time, had incorrectly priced seven-unit trusts, did not bank client money on time and failed to have adequate compliance arrangements.

Sector challenge grants

THE Government yesterday signalled a new deal with industrial trade associations as it awarded £36 million in grants to 186 new projects aimed at improving the UK's competitiveness. Under the sector challenge scheme, the Government will contribute to projects aimed at fostering new business and equipping people with better skills. Though the scheme was established by the previous government, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said that "many of these projects" aims are in line with our vision of the priorities for business.

Rentokil stake split

SOPHUS BERENDSEN, the Danish group that holds a large stake in Rentokil Initial, is to emerge. Two new, separate companies will emerge, Sophus Berendsen and Ratin. The new Sophus Berendsen will hold 10 per cent of Rentokil Initial and Ratin will hold 32.2 per cent of Rentokil. The five-year standstill on selling Rentokil shares, announced on March 11 last year, will remain in place after the Danish demerger. Rentokil shares rose 3½p to 235½p.

Air inquiry 'progress'

KAREL VAN MIKERT, the European Competition Commissioner, said that the investigation was now more positive for resolving the European Commission's inquiry into an alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. He said that the situation had improved since Labour took power and since a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. He added that the Government now realised that competition issues over the alliance must be considered at the European Union and national level.

Textile jobs at risk

MORE THAN 150 jobs are under threat after Towles, a family-owned textile company, went into administrative receivership. Towles, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, is now in the hands of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, and has been put up for sale. The company was founded in 1906, but it has changed hands twice since the early 1990s after running into financial difficulties. A spokesman blamed competition from imports and tight retail profit margins for the problems. There are still hopes the jobs will be saved.

Nike issues warning

NIKE stock plunged 14 per cent after the company said that its fourth-quarter revenue and income would be below Wall Street expectations. Shares of Nike fell \$8.875 to \$54.75 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The collapse came after the athletic footwear and apparel company said that it expected earnings per share for the three months ending May 31 of between 51 and 56 cents, well below analysts' consensus of 69 cents.

Mitsubishi Motors fall

MITSUBISHI MOTORS skidded to lower profits in the past year, hit by poor sales across the globe, as leading Japanese rivals raced ahead on new models and a weaker yen. Japan's fourth-biggest carmaker announced a group operating profit down 36.5 per cent to 45.7 billion yen (£240 million) in the year to March 31. Group net profit fell 8.9 per cent to 11.6 billion yen. Parent company operating profit also dropped 8.4 per cent to 57.2 billion yen.

Hain plans 'industrial villages'

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government will today launch a new business initiative aimed at boosting investment in one of the UK's oldest industrial regions.

The initiative in South Wales comes as an announcement is expected, also today, of hundreds of new automotive jobs in Wales.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, will today launch a government strategy aimed at locating investment in the valleys of South Wales — the old pit areas that have seen high levels of unemployment since the demise of the coal industry.

Mr Hain will announce the development of "industrial villages" in the valleys — clusters of mainly high-tech supplier companies that would become sourcing centres for investment along the M4 corridor in South Wales.

Industrial villages were first promoted by Mr Hain as a backbench MP, but the idea has been given fresh impetus with the decision by LG, the Korean electronics manufacturer, to invest £1.7 billion in a new semiconductor plant in Newport. The plant will create 6,100 jobs directly and will be Europe's largest inward investment.

Air France lands back into profit

AIR FRANCE, the French state-owned airline, yesterday announced a return to profit for the first time in eight years despite continued industrial unrest (Adam Sage writes).

Patrice Durand, managing director, said the heavily subsidised carrier had reported a net consolidated profit of Fr394 million in the year to March 31 against last year's loss of Fr2,264 billion.

The result will comfort Christian Blanc, made chairman four years ago, and add weight to his claim that the airline should be privatised swiftly if the ruling centre-right parties win this Sunday's parliamentary election.

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Better late than never



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Patrick Ponsolle, the joint chairman of Eurotunnel, did the impossible yesterday. He didn't make the company seem a viable prospect — that would have taken a miracle of biblical proportions — but he managed to make people nostalgic for Sir Alastair Morton. While Sir Alastair made some pretty extreme statements during his near decade at the helm of the black hole of Folkestone, nothing can compare to Ponsolle's assertion that the British and French governments had a duty to extend Eurotunnel's franchise for an extra 34 years because they are responsible for the mess the company is in.

M Ponsolle is rewriting history. When Eurotunnel was awarded the franchise a dozen years ago, it took on the project with its eyes wide open. This was the sort of deal that share risk between the public and private sector which the Labour Government is hoping to promote with the new improved Private Finance Initiative. Earlier this week it emerged that Andersen Consulting was willing to take a £23 million hit because a PFI project was going to be delivered late. What is good for Andersen should be good for Eurotunnel. It is merely that the figures are bigger.

This is a project that has soaked up more than £12 billion of cash, was late being completed, even later opening and, when it did open, it had to be closed because of

a fire in the supposedly safe open carriages carrying freight. Yet, since it opened it has been such a commercial success that it is now talking about raising prices for its freight service, Le Shuttle, because it is not afraid of competition from the ferry companies, which are huddling together for safety. Had this project been managed properly in the first place, it would have been fine.

The fact that M Ponsolle is saying these things implies he actually believes them — something one was not always sure of with Sir Alastair, who appeared much of a striver he could make. In France, M Ponsolle is playing the gallery. There are hundreds of thousands of small shareholders who have *leur chemises* on Eurotunnel and who will vote in next weekend's election. The French Government is willing to bend to pressure. It is not only willing to extend the franchise but is pressurising the British Government to follow suit. But John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is made of stronger stuff. He is willing to attack Railtrack and, with Margaret Beckett, lay waste the plans of National

Express. Why should he roll over and play dead with Eurotunnel. As was shown by yesterday's figures, extending the licence has value — about £15 million a year according to Eurotunnel's calculations — or £510 million in total. Why should this be given up for free? If Eurotunnel wants the licence extension it should pay for it. So this will put back the company's plans of getting into profit by 2006 — it is a lot cheaper than going bust.

Note of caution needed by Brown

There was an uneasy political silence on this side of the Channel yesterday as the rest of Europe attempted to come to terms with the latest bout of euro worries. While the Italian Government was relishing pay-back time for the years of German criticism it has endured over its own budgetary wheezes,

Gordon Brown was conspicuous only by his absence. The only comment of note came from Kenneth Clarke, the erstwhile Chancellor, who seized the opportunity to try and persuade the Tory Party that even he is not as europhile as the Germans. But the unfolding battle in Germany creates a huge policy dilemma for Mr Brown. The City's only firm conclusion yesterday was that European markets are in for a period of uncertainty and volatility.

This looks set to last, with more crises in the offing, until the politicians resolve whether Europe will have a "soft" single currency on time in 1999 or whether the whole project should be delayed as Mr Brown's new friend Martin Taylor continues to argue.

Britain, as a relative beacon of stability, will become even more attractive to investors for as long as it is likely that the country will remain aloof from the early

stages of the single currency. The stock market should enjoy a further rally as funds flow in from abroad. More importantly, sterling will soon be heading higher again, against the express wishes of Mr Brown and the business lobby.

But as yesterday's trade figures showed, the export outlook is not as black as some manufacturing businesses have recently complained. Almost all of the pound's recent rise has been against European currencies and exporters have lost little competitiveness in the rest of the world, making big gains in areas tied to the equally strong dollar. This puts a lot of the bleating by exporters into sharp focus. The Japanese economy was able to thrive for a long time despite a strong yen.

It would be an uncomfortable ride sitting outside a soft euro trading block with the appreciating pound hurting European exports — although less economi-

cally painful than rushing into a fudged currency. Mr Brown might be tempted into the euro by the elusive goal of a weaker currency. But if the Government really wants to resolve its single currency policy dilemma, it should ignore those siren cries and perhaps use some of its new found Euro-credibility to push for a postponement.

A deal too expensive

Well it was not as if Scottish Amicable had not been warned. Anybody could tell that the plan to float the life company was not going to fly. The decision to plough on even when the bidders started declaring their hand was shouting against the storm. Now it has emerged that £10 million went into the pockets of City advisers for this insane exercise.

But how could ScotAm have spent this much? And for that matter how can the whole exercise of delivering the business into the hands of the Pru be costing £34 million. And while we're on the subject how about the £91 million spend on the marriage of Royal Insurance and

Sun Alliance. And heaven knows what it will cost to merge Guinness and GrandMet.

Let's just think about the £34 million. Given that your average City adviser does not get out of bed for less than £300 an hour, this equates to 110,000 man hours of work. Assuming a 12-hour day, six days a week (these folk work hard), this would mean that an average of 127 top city advisers were constantly working for three months to put this deal together. Given that around 40 people from SBC Warburg attended the signing of the deal, these figures do not seem all that far fetched.

The level of City fees on these deals is clearly getting out of hand. The Office of Fair Trading has already acted to cut down the cost of underwriting share issues in the market. It probably has no remit here, but someone should cut down this City fat cat.

Jobs for the boys

THE Government has come up with a catchy line for its plans to rejuvenate the Welsh valleys. There are to be "industrial villages" to provide employment. This sounds so much more attractive than industrial estates. Might the climate now move in favour of the residential equivalent? Early in the Thatcher years, "New villages" were mooted as the answer to the need for new housing, but developers failed to persuade the planners of their good intentions.

LIG lifts profits by 36%

London International Group, the Durex condoms and Marigold rubber gloves group, is aiming to maintain earnings growth of more than 10 per cent a year after completing its three-year recovery programme.

Shares in London International rose 13p, to 169½p, as it reported underlying pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to £35.6 million, in the year to March 31. Nick Hodges, chief executive, said the company had restored the profitability it enjoyed before heavy losses on its photo-processing business.

The results were hit by the £10.4 million cost of reorganising Aladan, its US condom and gloves business. This was offset by a £4.3 million profit on disposals, leaving pre-tax profits at £29.5 million. The company is paying a final dividend of 21p on August 22, making a 28p total, up by 40 per cent.

SIB campaign

The Securities and Investments Board, launched a £400,000 advertising campaign in the English and Scottish national press in a bid to persuade more victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal, to come forward. Only two out of five people contacted by firms that sold them personal pensions are responding, it says.

The campaign is part of the SIB's latest effort to clear up the long-running scandal. Three years after the start of the scandal, the extent of the 500,000 victims have accepted compensation. This month regulators set new deadlines for agreeing compensation.

Red chip rush

Beijing Enterprises, China's latest red chip stock, trebled in price on its first day of trade on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday. The shares, issued at HK\$12.48, touched HK\$45 before closing at HK\$40.20. The red chip conglomerate, controlled by Beijing's municipal government, launched an initial 150 million-share global offering last week, amid a stampede for China-linked stocks ahead of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on July 1.

M&G shares fall as interims disappoint City

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in M&G Group tumbled 60p to £12.82½ yesterday as the unit trust and personal equity plan manager disappointed the City with interim pre-tax profits of £33.2 million.

Although this was a 6 per cent rise on the first half of the previous year, it was below expectations, as was the £16.1 billion total of funds under management. M&G, a big believer in steadily rising dividend payments, also declared an unchanged interim dividend of 16p a share, due on July 17.

Michael McIntock, who became managing director this year, said that this did not imply any decision about the final dividend.

M&G struggled to attract new money during the recent Peps season because of widespread criticism of the poor investment performance of its UK equity unit trusts. David Watson, finance director, said M&G captured a market share of only 2.3 per cent, instead of the 8-11 per cent it has achieved in the past.

Lower sales of £312 million and significantly higher redemptions of £455 million left M&G with a net outflow from unit and investment trusts. Mr McIntock said the redemption figure was inflated by the loss of £90 million that followed an internal takeover of the M&G Dual investment trust.



McIntock: new funds

Under Vivian Bazalgette, appointed as head of investment last year, M&G is modifying its traditional approach to investment. As a value investor, M&G has invested

heavily in companies on relatively high dividend yields and in smaller companies. Both categories have been poor performers recently.

Although sticking with its value philosophy, Mr McIntock wants to rationalise the existing range of 14 UK funds and to add some new funds. By making these changes, he hopes in future to avoid all M&G's funds performing badly at the same stage of the investment cycle, as happened recently. M&G's performance for its pension fund clients has been much better, because it has invested more money abroad, in fixed-interest stocks, and in large companies.

M&G said it expects to spend £5 million making sure its computers can deal with the year 2000 problem. Mr McIntock said: "We think it's going to be a bigger deal than people say. It's going to be a big issue in the markets." The millennium is one reason why Mr McIntock is cautious on the outlook for the UK stock market.

Mr Watson said there was a severe shortage of computer programmers who can deal with the code used by older mainframe computers. He said there was a nine-month wait to join the necessary training courses.

Tempus, page 28

Tring chief fights bid to oust board

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PHILIP ROBINSON, chief executive of Tring International, will meet shareholders over the next few days to try to persuade them to vote down an attempt by a fellow founder and former school friend to oust him and the board.

Mark Frey, who ran the discount music company with Mr Robinson until forced out two years ago, has teamed up with Jay Chernow, a major shareholder.

The two, who control 20 per cent of the company, have requisitioned an extraordinary meeting for June 16 at which shareholders will vote

on whether the current board should resign.

Results announced yesterday show that pre-tax profit in the year to March 31 was £500,000 compared with £3 million a year ago. Mr Robinson said the figures were "extremely disappointing" but that the move upmarket should improve margins.

Turnover was down 34 per cent to £18.8 million. The company will not pay a dividend.

All but one of the legal disputes which have plagued Tring over recent years have now been settled.

TLG to end German production

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TLG, the former Thorn Lighting Group, is to end manufacturing in Germany because of the high cost of labour.

The company is planning to close its one German factory and has made an exceptional provision of £13.5 million to cover the cost. That factory's production of fluorescent lighting will be shifted to the UK, France and Sweden.

The provision contributed to a £20 million drop in pre-tax profit to £3.6 million in the year to March 31.

The company plans to cut 350 jobs over the next year, most of them in Germany, taking its workforce to just below 4,000. It cut 200 jobs last year.

TLG is beginning to implement the job cuts. The company expects the rationalisation to give an annual saving of £4 million in 1998-99 and £5 million on completion in 1999-2000.

Wassall, the mini-conglomerate, now owns about 5.6 per cent of TLG and speculation is mounting that it is planning a bid. Hamish Bryce, executive chairman of TLG, said yesterday that he had not spoken to Wassall for several months. "We don't see the necessity for a bid," he said.

Mr Bryce said that the strong pound had knocked £1 million off profits during the year. A final dividend of 2.9p is maintained, payable on August 12, giving an unchanged total of 4.3p.

Thomas Potts buys Coalite for £24.3m

THOMAS POTTS, the silk-screen printing company, changed its business strategy yesterday with the £24.3 million purchase of Coalite Products, a maker of smokeless fuel and chemicals (Eric Reguly writes).

The acquisition is to be funded through the placing and open offer of 540 million shares at 5p each, raising £27 million, after which Thomas Potts will change its name to Coalite. The shares will have a full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Coalite, which has been owned by Anglo United since 1989, reported a pre-tax operating profit of £7 million on turnover of £59.4 million in the 11 months to February 28.

Berisford shows signs of recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Berisford rose 8½p to 133p yesterday after the Magnet kitchens group at last showed signs of recovery. Pre-tax profits rose from £11.9 million to £38.9 million in the six months to March 29.

Berisford shares suffered last year after the company said that it was in talks with a potential bidder and then revealed within days that the suitor had gone away.

Berisford said that its Darlington factory, which suffered from an industrial dispute in September 1996, had continued to recover rapidly.

Sales at the Welbilt operation in America rose 11 per cent to £241.6 million. Operating profit at Welbilt before restructuring costs increased 6 per cent to £29.6 million.

John Slater, the chairman, said: "We are pleased with the profitable progress made by both Welbilt and Magnet in the first half and are encouraged by the first eight weeks' trading of our second-half, which shows sales at Welbilt and Magnet up 10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively over the same period last year."

He added that the company was investigating a number of acquisition and co-operation opportunities.

The half-year dividend rose 33 per cent to 2.0p out of earnings up 12.5 per cent to 7.2p. Magnet raised sales 11 per cent to £112 million, out of which operating profits increased 52 per cent to £3.5 million.

Wakebourne bought by Emerson

FRANK EMERSON, who has been involved with Wakebourne in various incarnations for 15 years, is buying the computer services business from the company's administrator for a figure believed to be little more than £1 million (Jason Nisbet writes).

This is less than a quarter of the amount he had indicated he would offer last week, before the group collapsed with debts of £10 million.

Mr Emerson is being backed by BSC, a private investment fund that was also behind a previous bid approach.

However, the administrator said that it understood no firm offer was put on the table.

Siebe is on track for continued growth.



Preliminary results for the year ended April 5 1997	1997	1996	Change
Turnover (£m)	3,005.3	2,599.1	up 15.6%
Pre-tax Profit (£m)	424.1	331.1	up 28.1%
Earnings per Share (pence)	54.1	45.0	up 20.2%
Dividend per Share (pence)	14.70	13.31	up 10.4%
Control Systems	Temperature & Appliance Controls		
	Industrial Equipment		

"Our high hopes for 1996/97 have been fully confirmed by these results. During the year we have strengthened our competitive position in all key markets and we are now even better placed from strategic and operating points of view. The second half of the year just ended witnessed accelerating organic sales growth coupled with increased profits and margins. Order backlog at the year end stood at £883.3 million which is 23.4% up on 1996 and this has given Siebe a very good start for the new

year. Although currencies remain a concern, the Group is able to manage the situation by flexing production volumes between countries. We do not see any signs of a recession in our main markets — indeed North America, the Far East and Middle Eastern markets remain strong and we continue to see some signs of growth in Continental Europe. The Board is therefore very confident of continuing the underlying growth in Siebe's business operations."

Barrie Stephens, Chairman.

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Siebe plc, Savon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England. Tel. 01753 855411.

THE FINANCIAL MARKETS

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

BTR shares slide below 200p as City turns cool

THERE was further misery for City fund managers as shares of BTR dipped below the 200p level to close 9p down at a new low of 197p. A total of 15.5 million shares in the industrial conglomerate changed hands and it now appears totally bereft of supporters within the Square Mile, having fallen from a peak of 344p this year.

This latest setback for the share price appears to have been sparked by a bearish note from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, the company, which has been undergoing a restructuring programme, rocked the City with a profits warning ahead of its annual meeting. SBC Warburg took on a line of 80 million shares at the 210p level, most of which is now believed to have been passed on to clients. They are almost certain to be sitting on sizeable losses and, with few signs of recovery, may start to demand some explanations.

The rest of the equity market opened lower, reflecting the overnight setback on Wall Street. Trading conditions remained thin, and selective support for defence issues helped prices to move into positive territory around mid-morning. But the gains were not held and the FT-SE 100 index finished 5.2 down at 4,672.3. A total of 719 million shares were traded.

Among the defence issues British Aerospace climbed 26p to £12.51. GKN 30p to £10.47 and Rolls-Royce 5p to 251p, while Smiths Industries put on 11p at 780p after a visit by brokers.

By contrast banks were dull. Alliance & Leicester fell 9p to 614p after a line of five million shares was placed at 615p. Abbey National also fell, by 25p to 901p, Barclays by 39p to £12.18, NatWest by 17p to 765p, and Royal Bank of Scotland by 18p to 616p.

Guinness retreated a further 5p to 575p as a question-mark remained over its £23 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan. LVMH, which owns 14 per cent of Guinness, has objected to the merger and wants to buy out Guinness from their joint ventures. The move may delay George Bull, chairman of GrandMet, and Anthony Greener, chairman of Guinness, from completing the deal. At yesterday's AGM Bernard Arnault told LVMH



A merger problem for Anthony Greener, left, of Guinness, down 5p, and George Bull of Grand Metropolitan, off 6p

shareholders that he had no intention of selling Moët Hennessy, in which Guinness has a 34 per cent stake. GrandMet ended 9p lower at 574p.

Stakis firmed 2p to 99p on the back of a strong profits rise and the news that it plans to dispose of eight non-core hotels. Earlier this year it bought the Metropole chain from Lomrho.

Royal Sun Alliance slipped back 6p to 464p as the group's share buyback plan finally got under way. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, was reckoned to be bidding 465p for stock in the market-place. By the close almost ten million shares had changed hands. RSA has shareholder approval to buy back up to 5 per cent of the equity, equivalent to 77.9 mil-

lion shares, worth £362 million. Elsewhere in the sector, Commercial Union lost 17p at 691p and General Accident 23p at 922p.

M&G Group closed 60p down on the day at £12.82, after the market gave the thumbs-down to a disappointing rise in interim profits.

A profits warning left Crabtree Group 10p down at 65p. Write-offs of product development costs would leave profits in the second half broadly in line with those in the first six months.

The decision to slash the dividend from 2.5p to just 0.1p left Hawtill Whiting nursing a fall of 11p at 57p. The group reported a rise in pre-tax profits last year from £1.2 million to £1.6 million. Some bullish comments about current prospects lifted Plasmon 25p to 201p.

Shares of AIM-listed Thomas Potts were suspended at 11p pending the acquisition of Coalite Products from Anglo United for £24.3 million. Potts intends to raise £27 million by way of an open offer and placing of shares.

Hapless Telesoft rallied 5p to 74p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the company's broker, moved to dispel rumours about rising debt levels.

There was little institutional support for Socio International on the first day of dealings. Offered at 260p, the price touched 262p but quickly fell back to close at 241p.

GILT-EDGED: Prices closed with small losses on the day after a lacklustre performance. However, gilts did manage to outperform German bunds, where the row between the Bundesbank and the German Government over the criteria for European Monetary Union continued to rumble on.

The June series of the long gilt traded 1/8 lower at £112.16 as investors continued to roll over into the September contract. A total of 81,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell 1/8 to £106.7. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £32.5 as at £102.7.

NEW YORK: Share prices were flat to lower in quiet morning trade as profit-takers continued to target blue chips, while the broader market held its positive tone. A raft of economic data is due out today. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 31.77 points lower at 7,325.46.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	7325.46	(-31.77)
S&P Composite	844.21	(-3.00)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	20123.23	(-9.11)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	14163.57	(-139.91)
Amsterdam:		
EDE Index	804.62	(-0.33)
Sydney:		
AO	2980.16	(+5.4)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	Closed	
Singapore:		
Strait	2067.17	(+2.81)
Brussels:		
General	1299.49	(+4.18)
Paris:		
CAC-40	2579.24	(-3.90)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	1076.30	(+0.70)
London:		
FT 30	2997.8	(-2.7)
FTSE 100	4672.3	(-5.2)
FTSE 250	4608.2	(+0.2)
FTSE 1000	2061.9	(-2.8)
FTSE Euro Stoxx 100	2342.35	(-4.91)
FTSE All-Share	2220.52	(-1.88)
FTSE Non Financials	2235.22	(-5.35)
FTSE Financials	1332.02	(-0.28)
FTSE Govt Secs	95.74	(-0.08)
Bulgaria		
SEAQ Volume	1478100000	
US:		
German Mark	2.7827	(+0.0037)
Exchange index	94.14	(+4.14)
Bank of England official call (4pm)		1.42%
ESOR		1.42%
RPI	156.3 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1997-100	1.73%
RPIX	155.8 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1997-100	1.73%

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	614p	- 9
Aston Villa	827p	...
Cable & Wireless	260	...
Caradon B	99p	- 14
Downing Hth (100)	100	...
Eagles	34p	...
Heart of Midlothian	107p	- 3
ITC Group	159p	...
Integrated As Mgt	105p	...
Lady In Leisure	124p	...
Longbridge Intl	119p	...
NMT (50)	50p	...
Newmark Tech	11p	...
Pennine AIM (100)	100	...
Petra Diamonds	67p	...
Petra Diamonds Wls	49p	...
Quelchem (143)	155p	...
Salehurst	121p	- 1
Soccer Investments	105p	...
Soco International	241	...
South Beach Cafe (4)	6p	...
Versatile Group	3p	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bolton Gp (Intl) n/p (8)	...
Enterprise n/p (199)	50
Tadpole Tech n/p (10)	14

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:		
Plasmon	201p (+25p)	
Xenova	325p (+31p)	
Dart	212p (+15p)	
Northumbria	211p (+14p)	
Corbion	238p (+14p)	
Jarvis	286p (+14p)	
Liberty	357p (+10p)	
Parly	558p (+15p)	
Carlton Comm	822p (+14p)	
FALLS:		
Legal & Gen	480p (-16p)	
Kellogg Intl	455p (-15p)	
Sun Life & P	303p (-10p)	
Shield Diag	415p (-12p)	
Ryl Bk Scot	616p (-18p)	
Gen Accident	922p (-22p)	
Nat West	785p (-17p)	
Fleetch	532p (-10p)	
Prudential	822p (-10p)	
BTR	167p (-9p)	

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Blackbelts in engineering

NEVER known for false modesty, Siebe's bosses have given themselves the new title of "champions". This elite cadre of managers are supported by an army of 250 "blackbelts" whose skills have been honed after a further induction in the central office Six Sigma programme. Suitably armed, the champions and blackbelts return to their fieldwork ready to debug and debottleneck inefficient operations and, no doubt, deliver efficient staff.

If this sounds like business school baloney, it is worth giving a glance at Siebe's results. In a year when many of its supporters were expecting a slowdown, Siebe has produced 20 per cent earnings growth and raised its margins by more than a full percentage point. Siebe is achieving what many large manufacturers consistently fail to deliver: continuous improvement in efficiency. While the bosses

at BTR tinker with spreadsheets, Siebe is in the trenches fighting for every penny of profit. Testimony to that is the impressive performance of Unitech, a business acquired just as the electronics world was heading into a tailspin but Siebe has raised its return on sales by 3 percentage points and the company should repeat the trick with APV.

Siebe's continuing margin advance combined with a growing market share begs the question of how far it can go. In a different industry competitors might be tempted to spoil the party and cut prices but process control is a costly world in which a threefold, Siebe, Emerson and Honeywell keep the peace, carving up a huge market with no powerful customers. Shares in a company that consistently delivers double digit earnings growth should cost much more than 16 times earnings.

M&G Group

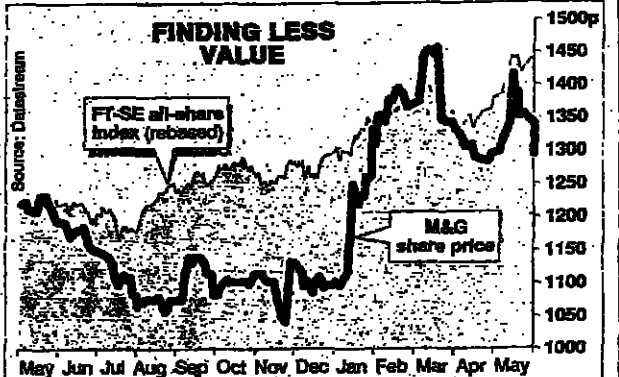
STICKING to its guns has been an expensive policy for M&G. Any investor who slavishly tracked the FT-SE 100 index for the past two years will have done rather better than if he had done his homework and studiously picked undervalued medium-sized industrial companies, bread and butter for M&G's fund managers.

Of course, M&G would be foolish to change course now and chase the market leaders so late in the day. Having made its name in stock-picking, the M&G brand still has some value, albeit less than five years ago. If there are reasons to own shares in the fund manager today, they have as much to do with the value to a predator of M&G's retail franchise, than the profits from a recovery.

Yesterday's disappoint-

ment had less to do with the poor sales figures and heavy redemptions than the effect on M&G's revenues of the weak performance. At the same time, M&G is spending more on advertising and promotion, a necessary if it is not to lose further ground. And there could be more one-off costs in store as the company rebrands some of

its products to attract new and younger investors. M&G shares are trading at more than 20 times current year earnings compared with the P/E of 21 awarded to the highly successful MAM, but there are few brand names on the block in this industry, and if M&G continues to falter it could attract a bid.



United Utilities

FORGET for a minute the image of Sir Desmond Pitcher as "King of the Fat Cats", pleading for windfall tax leniency from the Blair Government. Forget also the £83 million charge taken after a construction contract fiasco in Thailand.

Yesterday's results hinted that the North West of England's water and electricity combine could have a few cards up its sleeve. Profits were disappointing but the amount of money owing, or "under-recovered", in electricity distribution income actually grew, suggesting that the company may be happy to post these extra earnings another day, in a less hostile climate.

Vertex, the outsourcing company, reported operating profit of £27.1 million in its maiden year. A few good contracts in the next few months would show that United has a growing source of non-regulated earnings.

Finally, the established customer rebate scheme is large enough that the threat of withdrawal should give United some extra clout in regulatory battles to come.

At 700p, United could be cheap, but it is a risk only for the bolder investor.

BTG

BTG is a jewel of indeterminate value. Its business is the commercial exploitation of new technologies and it owns the rights to literally hundreds of technologies today. It is incurring losses and its annual sales are a modest £22.5 million a year, but since its flotation BTG shares have soared, scoring a 14-fold increase in two years.

BTG is now entering a new phase, raising £25 million, half of which is earmarked for Torotrak, its infinitely variable transmission technology. Leading car manufacturers, including Ford, Toyota and BMW, are testing out the system, which offers

substantial fuel savings. Success could lead to royalties for BTG from the use of Torotrak technology on a huge number of the millions of cars sold worldwide every year. On some estimates, Torotrak on its own already justifies BTG's current market value of nearly £580 million.

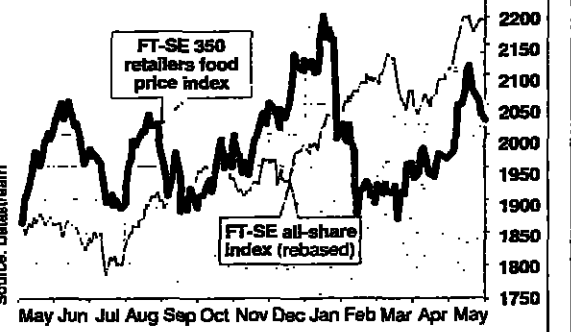
BTG's confidence is underlined by the additional backing it is giving Torotrak, which last year made a profit of £730,000 on rapidly increasing sales. The rest of the £25 million is for the numerous other investment opportunities that BTG can see.

BTG's chief executive and finance director have sold shares in the placing - their first opportunity to lock in any benefit from the company's extraordinary rise. Since the sales are mostly tax-driven, this should not prove too alarming.

BTG still looks a good bet for bolder investors.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISTED

CHECKING OUT BETTER MARGINS



THE food retailers received a boost from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, in an upbeat review of prospects. Lawrence Sugarman, at Kleinwort, believes there is plenty of scope for improvement at Asda, up 1p at 119p, Sainsbury 3p better at 361p, and Tesco, 6p stronger at 379p.

He said: "People have been getting the jitters about lower sales numbers at Asda before the AGM next week. They are worried about disinflation and volume slowdown. But they should be looking at

margins, which are very stable". The same goes for Asda where market expectations are low.

Mr Sugarman added: "Most brokers are looking for £340 million - we are top of the range with £345 million - and the group could come in with £350 million-plus. If that is the case, there will be a lot of pressure for brokers to raise their forecasts, which will be good for the shares."

He says recovery is continuing at Sainsbury, whose shares have performed strongly of late.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA	
May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

ROBUSTA COFFEE (C)

May	2520-2525
Jul	2520-2525
Sep	2520-2525
Dec	2520-2525
Mar	2520-2525
May	2520-2525

WHITE SUGAR (C)

May	304.70-2
Jul	304.70-2
Sep	304.70-2
Dec	304.70-2
Mar	304.70-2
May	304.70-2

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

Beef	100.10
Pork	100.10
Lamb	100.10
Chicken	100.10
Duck	100.10
Goose	100.10

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

CRUDE OILS (Dollars per barrel)	
May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

LIFFE POTATO (t/ha)

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

RUBBER (No 1 RSS C/p)

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

LIFFE BITUMEN (t/ha)

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

LIFFE BITUMEN (t/ha)

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt	
May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Three Mth Sterling

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Three Mth Eurodollar

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Three Mth Euroswiss

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Three Mth ECU

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

FTSE 100

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rate	5.00
Discount Rate	5.00
Bank Rate	5.00
Overnight	5.00
1 month	5.00
3 months	5.00
6 months	5.00
12 months	5.00

Prime Bank Bills (Days)

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Local Authority Debts

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Sterling CDs

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Dollar CDs

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

Building Society CDs

May	1017-1020
Jul	1017-1020
Sep	1017-1020
Dec	1017-1020
Mar	1017-1020
May	1017-1020

OTHER STERLING

Australia	1.3094-1.3102
Austria	11.95-11.96
Belgium (Fbm)	35.06-35.07

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Kohl humbled by the Curse of Maastricht

Germany's gold war could be the undoing of the Chancellor and his single currency vision

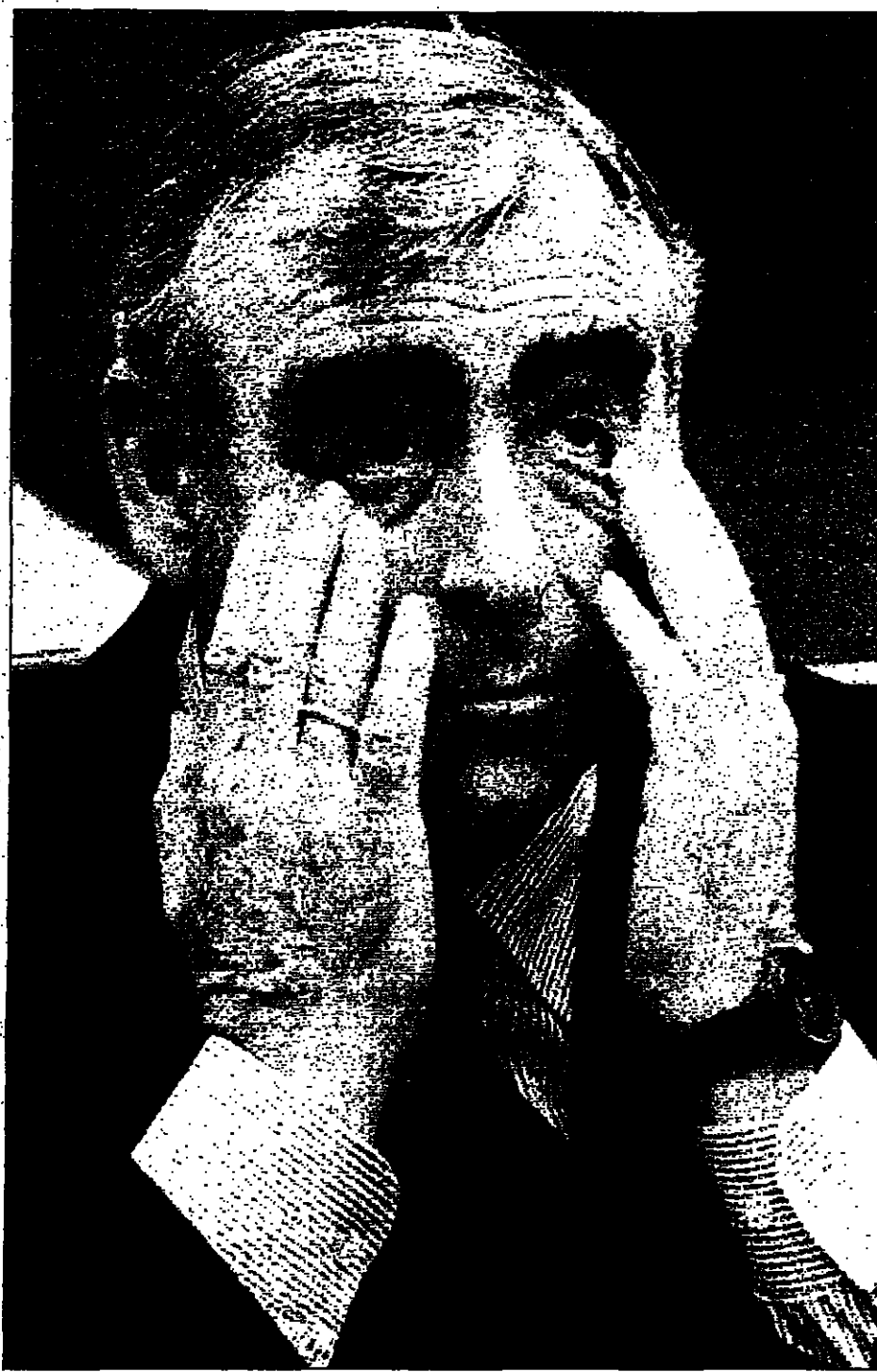
In this season of political miracles in Europe, the sudden outbreak of war between the German Government and the Bundesbank is even more astonishing and important than President Chirac's electoral miscalculation in France. With Helmut Kohl facing his political *Götterdämmerung* and the French electorate repudiating the austerity demanded by the Maastricht treaty, the prospect of a European single currency has suddenly been reduced from near-certainty to little more than an outside chance.

A month ago I said on this page that Chirac's bolt from the blue was one of those rare events that necessitate a sudden reassessment of some of the basic assumptions that markets and politicians had been making about the future of the world. I argued that President Chirac's impetuosity suddenly reduced the chances of Europe having a single currency from almost 100 per cent to something like 60 per cent. This judgment was broadly vindicated by the French Government's humiliation last Sunday and I was waiting for the final results of the French election this weekend when an even bigger bombshell exploded at the very centre of the Maastricht nexus in Frankfurt.

The declaration of war over gold between Chancellor Kohl and his previously loyal lieutenant Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, leaves the Chancellor fighting for his political life. And in spite of the German Chancellor's impressive record of winning against the odds in past political tussles, his chances of surviving in this battle now look extremely slim — certainly much slimmer than the financial markets and most political commentators have assumed in their first dazed reactions to this week's astonishing events. And if Kohl is destroyed by the Curse of Maastricht, which has already claimed the careers of almost every politician it has touched, it follows inevitably that the whole jerry-built structure of European Monetary Union will come crashing down — like Valhalla in the last act of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*.

The enormity of this destruction — the possibility that ten years of diplomacy, sacrifice and propaganda would go to waste, that governments would have fallen like ninepins for no reason, that millions of people would have lost their jobs to no purpose — all this is so astounding that the natural reaction is initially one of paralysed denial. This is the "rabbit in the headlight effect" I described a month ago when I said that the markets had underestimated the historic importance of President Chirac's election call.

Surely it is inconceivable that EMU will be allowed to fail," investors said then, and they repeat it now. But history is filled with examples of apparently invincible leaders who are pushed by their vanity to take just one step too far — what might be called the Napoleon-in-Russia effect. The fact that this final step is often unnecessary and small does not diminish its fateful importance. Chancellor Kohl could easily have found other ways to satisfy the Maastricht treaty than tampering with the Bundesbank's gold, just as President Nixon could easily have won re-election without the Watergate burglary. But once the fatal step has been taken it cannot be reversed. It is now too late for Kohl to



Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister behind the plan to revalue Bundesbank gold reserves

say sorry to the Bundesbank and go back to where he was two weeks ago before Theo Waigel, his blundering Finance Minister, came up with the wheeze of reappraising the value of the Bundesbank's gold and treating the profit as government income. After the Bundesbank's unprecedented denunciation of Herr Waigel's "creative accounting" and the accusation that the Government was interfering with its constitutionally guaranteed independence, Herr Kohl must either brazenly defy the Bundesbank or back down and provide an open and transparent new plan to hit the Maastricht targets. Either course will be fraught with peril and could bring both Herr Kohl and his European vision crashing down.

Imagine (hard though it may be) that Herr Kohl decided to apologise and forget about the Bundesbank gold. In principle he could still then hit the Maastricht target by adding a few pennings to petrol taxes, as many of his advisers had urged all along. But any such tax increase would probably now be voted down by the SPD opposition, which controls the upper house of the German parliament. Higher taxes, which might previously have been presented as "the price of Europe", would now be seen as the price of saving Kohl from embarrassment and keeping him in power. With Kohl on the run — and with the French election showing that voters are no longer prepared to pay for their leaders' historical ambitions — the Opposition would

be far more tempted to turn both higher taxes and EMU into electoral issues. Indeed, higher taxes would probably be opposed by Herr Kohl's Free Democrat "allies" and even perhaps by his potential successors within the Christian Democrats.

Alternatively, Herr Kohl could leave the Bundesbank's gold alone and simply press ahead with EMU in spite of a deficit above the 3 per cent Maastricht target. Herr Waigel, who has stupidly staked his reputation on the mantra that "three is three", could be forced to eat his words or be made the scapegoat for the Bundesbank debacle. A week ago, such a course could have been defended as pragmatic politics and reasonable economics. Now this es-

cape route is almost closed. Having tried to desecrate the Bundesbank to meet the Maastricht target, Herr Kohl could hardly say that the target didn't matter after all. Even if he had the bare-faced cheek to do so, he could no longer be sure of steamrolling the Opposition.

Opponents of EMU and of Herr Kohl personally — whatever their true motives — now have a magnificent cause on which to unite. From this week it will no longer be "anti-European" for Germans to argue against EMU: it will be "pro-Bundesbank", "pro-stability" or, at worst, "anti-Kohl". Even Herr Kohl's own party may think twice before following their leader on EMU, knowing that they will have to answer for it to the voters in October 1998.

The Constitutional Court will also have a genuine issue to settle if Herr Kohl suddenly declares that the 3 per cent limit did not matter after all. And the constitutional judges, hitherto assumed to be in the Chancellor's pocket, could be emboldened by the unexpected defiance shown by the Bundesbank, most of whose directorate had also been acting as Kohl puppets until now.

All in all there seems to be little prospect of Herr Kohl reversing his decision to use the Bundesbank's gold. But what if he does renege the gold? The Bundesbank's opposition could create a legal minefield since the bank must provide a report to the German parliament and the Constitutional Court on whether it considers the Maastricht conditions have been satisfied. Herr Tietmeyer must also vote in the European Monetary Institute about which countries are ready for the single currency. It is unlikely that even Herr Kohl would have the gall to go ahead with EMU if Herr Tietmeyer had voted against German membership.

Above all, the clash with the Bundesbank could transform German public opinion. EMU has never been popular among Germans, but until now it did not loom large as an issue in the public mind. People said they were against the single currency when asked by pollsters, but they did not give much weight to this issue when casting their votes — behaviour very similar to Britain's supposedly "Euro-sceptical" voters. If, however, Herr Kohl overrides the Bundesbank, the EMU issue may rise to a different scale of prominence.

Instead of just inspiring a vague sense of historical unease, the single currency would be seen as a direct threat to living standards and jobs. Germans respect the Bundesbank, but that is not their main point. They also have bitter memories of the last time Herr Kohl humiliated the Bundesbank by forcing it to exchange D-marks for worthless east German Ost-marks. Rightly or wrongly, German voters blame this decision for the vast reunification costs they have borne ever since.

Herr Kohl may believe that his triumph in uniting Germany has given him the licence to follow his political vision again wherever it leads. But history may not repeat itself. Unification justified sacrifice, but German voters do not give two hoots for Herr Kohl's vision of Europe. In blindly following his instincts a second time, Herr Kohl may have taken one small step too many — and gone off a cliff.

Tinseltown gloom may send Seagram back to its roots

The company is under pressure to make spirits its priority, says Eric Reguly

When Edgar Bronfman Jr., the chief executive of Seagram, shocked the film industry with the \$5.7 billion purchase of MCA, the Hollywood studio whose hits have included *Jaws* and *The Sting*, the sceptics came out in force.

Here, they said, was another star-struck rich kid captivated by the glamour of Tinseltown. They claimed he knew nothing about the high-risk film industry and should have stuck with booze, the product that turned Seagram from a Prohibition-era bootlegging operation into one of the mightiest players in the global spirits market.

Two years later, the sceptics seem to have been proved right. Since the acquisition of MCA (now called Universal Studios), Seagram shares have underperformed the Dow Jones industrial average by about a third, while those of Du Pont, the chemicals company that Seagram sold to finance the MCA acquisition, have kept pace with the market. Seagram shareholders would have been far better off if the young man had left well enough alone.

Perhaps Edgar Jr is getting the message. Speculation is mounting that Seagram will return to its roots with a spirits acquisition and analysts believe Allied Domecq, the British drinks and pubs group, is the most logical candidate. Ron Littleboy, of Nomura Securities, said: "An agreed merger of the spirits businesses of Allied and Seagram would be the preferred scenario for Seagram."

The rumours intensified on Wednesday when Seagram raised \$1.3 billion, after tax, from the sale of half its stake in Time Warner, the world's biggest media company.

Seagram came under pressure to make spirits, not Hollywood, its priority earlier this month when Guinness and GrandMet agreed a £23 billion merger that makes Seagram and Allied Domecq look like micro-breweries by comparison. Neither Seagram nor Allied Domecq would comment on any talks they have had with each other.

The British company, for its part, seems open to a deal. When Allied Domecq reported interim results earlier this month, Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, said: "It is clear that consolidation is one way forward for the industry... Any board is going to be open to opportunities that consolidation might create."

Edgar Jr, unlike his father and grandfather, is not a booze man at heart. But if spirits remain Seagram's core business, he will have his hands full restoring its fortunes in the wake of the Guinness-GrandMet merger.

The Bronfman spirits empire dates back to Prohibition, when the production of beer, wine and spirits was banned in the US from 1920 to 1933. The Canadian version was lax by comparison. Sam Bronfman, Edgar's legendary grandfather, spotted an opportunity and formed Distillers Corporation in Montreal in 1924, which later acquired Joseph E Seagram & Sons.

Canadian prohibition did not prevent export sales, so Mr Sam, as he was called, sold whisky to bootleggers, who resold it to Americans. His smartest move was antici-

father's logical successor. Movies were his passion. Sir David Puttnam, the Oscar-winning producer of *Chariots of Fire*, was a friend of the family and spent a great deal of time with Edgar Jr in the Seventies. Sir David was a good tutor and the young Bronfman became a producer. He is best known for *The Border*, a 1982 Jack Nicholson film that fared better with the critics than at the box office.

Edgar Jr's movie career did not go far and he landed at Seagram. He performed better than expected and, by the late Eighties, was pretty much running the show. His strategy, which was applauded by analysts, was to concentrate on expensive, high-margin brands. Martell, the French cognac maker, for \$1.2 billion, and the sale of most of the non-premium brands. He also bought Tropicana, the leading orange juice brand in the ready-to-serve market.

But Edgar Jr, like his father, was convinced that spirits would never again be a high-growth business and that entertainment presented better opportunities. So he traded Du Pont for MCA and waited for the riches to flow. It has not worked so far. Studios live and die at the box office and blockbusters such as *Jurassic Park* and its sequel, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, are rare.

Since the MCA purchase, Edgar Jr's strategy has been unclear. Is Seagram an entertainment or spirits company? The reality is that the market might not support another entertainment acquisition.

Seagram has toyed with the idea of buying EMI, the music group — until MCA becomes a solid performer. In all probability, expanding in the spirits business will be the next move and Allied Domecq looks the best candidate.



Hits like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* are rare

WHY SETTLE FOR A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD?

infringe v. 1 hair fashionably combed forward (see *Beatles*) 2 Rugby Football obstruct someone accidentally on purpose 3 to break a law or a right.

novation n. 1 total lack of cheering or clapping (see *Synchronized Swimming*) 2 contract whereby a creditor at the request of the debtor agrees to take another person as debtor in place of the original debtor.

placing v. 1 a quota of flat fish 2 horses, dogs etc. in winning order (usu. foll. by *payoff*) 3 act of placing shares on behalf of clients.

court n. 1 place to buy strawberries and cream 2 treat with flattering attention (esp. clients) 3 where justice is administered.

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Going Dutch

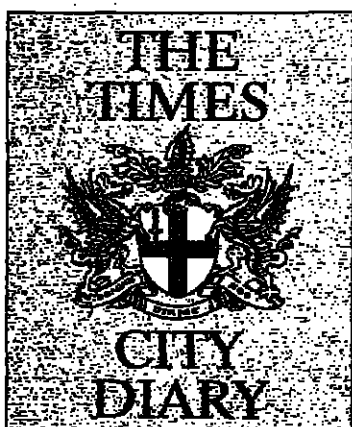
ONE of the City's heaviest hitters, John Reynolds, is quitting Schroders after 21 years for a lucrative post at ABN Amro Bank. Dutch owner of Hoare Govett. Something of a senior statesman at Schroders, he becomes chairman of ABN's corporate finance activities in Europe. No whisper of his salary, but, including bonus, he is not going to be giving up as a senior director of corporate finance at Schroders for anything too far short of seven figures. When I first heard

that ABN had hired John Reynolds, my response was, which one? There are at the last count four of that name at loose in the City, one a utilities analyst, although he may have left, one at Shandwick PR and the third at one of the big law firms. "I think we've got the right one," says my source. "They'd be a bit disappointed if they ended up with the lawyer or the Shandwick one."

AT THE LVMH annual meeting in Paris the champagne was going down very nicely, and the wine, vodka and gin — this is France, remember, and not the usual stinky British bash with a cup of coffee. Cold. And a biscuit. If you're lucky. But the one thing the French were not keen on was Johnny Walker — a Guinness whisky. "Bet appears they are staging a boycott," sneered the barman.

Mail shot

BAFFLING, I know, but there definitely is some sort of black hole at the Post Office into which a tiny but identifiable proportion of our mail gets sucked. The Alliance & Leicester posted 619,000 letters a fortnight ago to members who did not want to hold their shares and had asked for them to be sold. About 100 of those letters



are lost forever, beyond the event horizon and into that parallel universe that some cosmologists tell us exists at the bottom of a singularity. This has prompted an interesting thought on the part of one A&L member, Wimbledon resident Ann Steele. She should have had about £1,300 for her shares. The same shares are now worth about £1,550. As she didn't get the original money, could she please have the larger sum? Close but no cigar, said the A&L, pointing to the fine print, as the bank put a second cheque into the post. She had signed irrevocable instructions to sell.

Coded message

AT THE Times we like to keep abreast of the news, even if we have to be a bit

guarded sometimes. On Tuesday we ran a cartoon of Sir Desmond Fitcher, chairman of United Utilities, in clogs and cap as the little Dutch boy trying to plug any number of leaks in the dyke. All very satirical, aimed at the water companies' rising tide of difficulties. It was, of course, a coded reference to the very secret engagement of Sir Desmond's daughter Samantha, that same weekend. She is marrying Ton Vermeer. He is from Holland, and spelling is obviously not his forte. You spotted the reference, didn't you?

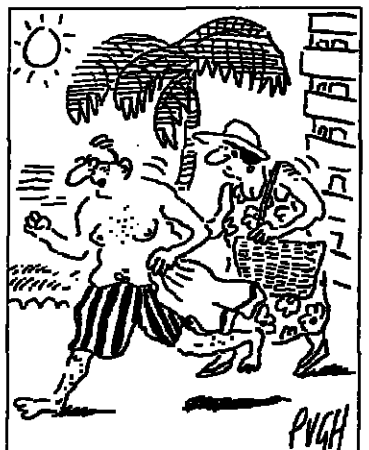
THE image consultants have been at Liffe. The futures market's annual report is out. The front is a mess of sepia pictures of traders in blazers waving their arms about. Tony Blair, Michael Heseltine, the one-month Euro-mark — all terribly Eighties. Top right on the front cover, where you might expect the name of the company, are the letters BTP, a small chemicals company that used to be run by my old friend Frank Buckley. Hi, Frank. Heaven knows what it all has to do with Liffe.

Out of Africa

IF YOU have tears still to shed for Anglo-American, the huge South African mining house, prepare to shed them. I learn that Tiny Rowland is researching a book about the company, which he blames for the impending merger between Lonrho, his

creation, and JCI of South Africa. Tiny thinks the whole thing is a stitch-up aimed at allowing Anglo-American at Ashanti Goldfields, where he remains on the board, and Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in the same. Tiny's previous publications have been on Alan Bond, the jailed Australian financier, and the Al Fayed brothers, both the subject of earlier feuds with the great man. They were not exactly laudatory. In half a century of business experience in Africa, Tiny has a pretty good idea where most of the bones on that Continent are buried.

MARTIN WALLER



"Quick! The Germans are fighting — we'll be able to get to the sunbeds first!"



John Reynolds, the Schroders boss, has been lured to a lucrative post at ABN Amro

This is the text of a circular posted to Lonrho Shareholders by Mr R W Rowland

LONRHO - JCI MERGER

Will two losers make one winner?

Lonrho, a famous African presence, has been approached by JCI.

Who, What and Why is JCI?

JCI is the rump of a former stock market favourite, 'Johnnies'. As Johannesburg Consolidated it was part of the Anglo-American family until the Anglo strategy board decided that some part of the vast empire should be made available for what was described as black empowerment, a mark of respect for the new order in South Africa. The valuable platinum mines of JCI were transferred back to Anglo, and the remainder split into mining and non-mining assets. Anglo in practice controls policy and management of the mining assets which form JCI today. The company has had a facelift by the appointment of Mr Mzi Khumalo who, while he has little relevant commercial experience, has a creditable political background. It has recently lost its managing director.

JCI's new chairman and his consortium are buying their 50 million JCI shares from Anglo-American for 54.50 Rand a share. According to the South African financial press other major institutional investors were unwilling to back Mr Khumalo and Saffie on the acquisition of the JCI shares from Anglo, because the shares were thought to be overpriced. A rights issue at Saffie was only 8% subscribed. As a result Anglo had to provide most of the funds through its associates and subsidiaries. The JCI share price on 23 May 1997 was 41.80 Rand per share giving an unrealised book loss of £90 million (R635 million). According to Business Day "... the new JCI owners were nervous about the share price and would want to make up for the premium they paid for control." Incidentally Mr Khumalo and his group have 30% of JCI, the standard percentage which the Oppenheims consider necessary for control. Anglo retains a direct 18% in JCI. Anglo and its associates control Saffie.

JCI has not had a popular launch, and in addition the new board has many covenants over its decision making, imposed by Anglo as principal lender. So far, JCI is a loser.

ANGLO

Lonrho is being approached by JCI at Anglo's urging, doubly motivated in wishing to see their black empowerment initiative looking good in front of the public and the new government, and wanting to offset the intervention of the European Commission in Anglo's direct control of Lonrho. Anglo's top men, like finance director Mr King and technical director Mr Wadeson, are on the JCI board. Mr Wadeson was on the Lonrho board until this month. Cosmetically Wadeson had to go from the Lonrho board in order to prevent a risible situation arising as two satellites of Anglo pretend to have independent talks with each other.

Should this Anglo inspired merger succeed in any form, whether 60/40 or 50/50, the typical linked shareholding pattern will give final power to E. Oppenheimer & Son, with their see-saw 8% at the top of the structure. Although the European Commission has ordered Anglo to sell down their Lonrho shareholding to 9.9%, a Lonrho-JCI merger would in my view effectively nullify the ruling as there is simply far too much Anglo in the pie. Lonrho as a company ought not to be seen attempting to violate the spirit of the EC ruling.

Anglo is facing a loss of over a hundred million pounds on its purchase of Lonrho shares, but it is not the fault of Lonrho shareholders that Anglo made a bog of the put option at 180 pence with Lonrho's former chief executive Mr Bock. The shares fell from 217 pence to 116 pence mainly because of Bock and Anglo. There can be no obligation for the main body of shareholders to make up Anglo's loss or save Anglo's face by handing Lonrho to JCI.

ASHANTI SWAP

As part of the scheme, Lonrho is considering giving Anglo control of the Ashanti mine in Ghana in exchange for cancelling the Lonrho shares which Anglo now regret buying according to the financial press. Ashanti was and will continue to be Lonrho's most coveted asset. We should all be so lucky as to be able to dictate the reparations we want for our own mistakes.

Why should Lonrho's shareholders part with Ashanti, the lowest cost gold producer in Africa, only to receive shareholdings in South African gold mining companies, which are far more vulnerable to low gold prices due to their higher production cost and which have less potential than Ashanti?

I would value Lonrho's stake in Ashanti at no less than £500 million, and it would be dire mismanagement if Lonrho has to part with it. If it has to be

sold then in shareholders' paramount interest it must be sold by competitive tender with the approval of the government of Ghana. Our company could cause collateral damage to the economy of Ghana and to our own image if the proudly independent Ashanti Mine becomes just another South African investment, as a result of our board's actions. In view of the help and support the Ghana government always extended to Lonrho it would be a betrayal to make it 'Anglo's Ashanti'.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF JCI

It is un-nerving, after the heavy costs shareholders have already funded for abortive de-merger and flotation proposals, to see in the British press Lonrho talking of 'due diligence' exercises to value the relative assets of Lonrho and JCI. Lonrho has always been open with its shareholders and cannot need a due diligence - our directors ought to know the value of our company, and SBC Warburg, who are acting for JCI, were acting for Lonrho earlier this year. The due diligence exercise in connection with the Gencor offer to merge with our platinum assets, and the due diligence to prepare our hotels for flotation BOTH resulted in unsustainable figures, in one case too low, and in the other far too high, and BOTH were enormously costly. Neither deal was done. What are we employing the directors for, if they cannot do a good deal for us? In thirty two years as Chief Executive I did not ask for a due diligence, although Lonrho took over hundreds of companies. These are the fiduciary responsibilities of the directors, not of merchant banks. For my own part as a major shareholder of Lonrho I would not want JCI paper, and look to the Lonrho board to protect the company's assets regardless of the friendships or ties they may have in South Africa, where Anglo reigns supreme.

LONRHO - LOSING EVERY ROUND

Shareholders have suffered a number of defeats and wrong turnings at Lonrho. Before entering into these negotiations, can Lonrho's board assure shareholders that this is not a cul-de-sac ending in a further ruling by Brussels on competition grounds due to Anglo's hefty involvement?

Trustees hold Anglo-American's further 18.4% in Lonrho, for sale only to parties not related to Anglo. The present proposals would have the effect of increasing Anglo's overall interest in Lonrho, which was not the intention. The trustees cannot on a reasonable interpretation of their role vote FOR a LONRHO-JCI merger.

Our board previously negotiated a platinum merger with Gencor on terms so prejudicial to Lonrho that I was obliged, for my own peace of mind, to assemble a technical team to oppose it first in Britain and then in Brussels. Even then there was comment in South Africa about the curious relative asset values agreed by the Lonrho board. Time and the record of Impala Platinum, the board's 'strong merger partner', have proved how right I was to do that. I also strongly opposed Anglo's entry since they announced that they had no intention of making an offer to all shareholders, but every intention of enjoying our assets. I wasn't far wrong there, as the share price of Lonrho collapsed.

Our board cannot bring shareholder value to us. They cannot protect the profits Lonrho used to make and have sold our two major cash cows, the Metropole Hotels and the Sugar Estates. What happened to all those pie-in-the-sky flotations and mergers? Where is the £700-800 million for our hotels and that Oh-so-generous Saudi prince? Just a twinkle in a public relations man's glass of Bordeaux, I fear.

CONCLUSION

For today's JCI, Lonrho is a good target. They achieve a London quotation, dilution of the empowerment factor which has not yet attracted a following on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, overseas assets and a perceived opportunity for growth outside the South African economy. Lonrho achieves little - undiscarded South African assets (for JCI has nothing else, barring a small holding in Johnson Matthey), narrowing of the asset base and in my opinion, increased risk in the medium and longer term. Anglo American with SBC Warburg will be able to convince many young analysts that their arithmetic is super. My own view is based on about fifty years successfully developing mining and industrial business across Africa.

Yours truly,

Tim Rowland

LONDON, 27 MAY 1997

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Legal fight nipped in the bud at Interflora

By Jason Nisse

THE dozen former directors of Interflora, ousted in a florists' revolt earlier this month, have called off their legal fight to be reinstated.

The ex-directors, led by David Parry, the former chairman, had claimed that the extraordinary general meeting, which was attended by 960 Interflora members in Warwick on May 11, did not have the right to vote them off the board and that there should be a postal ballot of all 2,600 members.

The extraordinary general meeting was requisitioned by Beverly Wood, a florist from Leeds, who was unhappy with plans to change the structure of Interflora, which could have led to a flotation on the stock market.

But yesterday Mr Parry said: "After extensive review of the likely time involved and financial costs of legal action and the effect such action might have on the association and its members, we have decided not to pursue the matter through the courts."

This was in spite of lawyers advising the dozen that they had a case and a petition from 460 florists supporting them. One of the deciding factors is understood to have been the time court action would have taken. Even if successful, it would be unlikely that a postal ballot could be staged before September.

Interflora's annual general meeting is scheduled to take place in October and the former directors are aiming to seek re-election.

Geoff Hughes, the Bristol-based florist who replaced Mr Parry as chairman, said Interflora had taken legal advice that confirmed it was right in not having a postal ballot.

Siebe 'Ninja' teams hope to save £50m a year by 2000

By George Sivell

SIEBE, the engineering group, hopes to deliver a powerful kick to its quality control operation by deploying Ninja-style trained engineers. Allen Yurko, Siebe chief executive, said that the company is gradually introducing swat teams of "black-belt" engineers who will be rushed to any Siebe installation that shows a defect.

Two master black-belt engineers have been used from late 1995 and 40 more are being trained, in addition to 200 lower level black belts. The programme reaped £8 million of net costs last year. Net savings of about £50 million a year are hoped for by the year 2000, which are expected to drop straight through to profits. It is hoped that greater reliability will also boost sales.

Siebe, which recently made an agreed £330 million bid for APV, the food manufacturing equipment maker, yesterday reported a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £424 million for the year to April 5.

Sales rose 15 per cent to £3,005 million. Earnings per share rose 30 per cent to 54p, out of which dividends rise 10 per cent to 14.7p a share, including a 9.8p final, up 10.5 per cent. The shares rose 10p to 958p.

Siebe said that it is targeting underlying sales and operating profits growth of 10 and 15 per cent respectively for 1997-98 and is confident of producing another "solid overall performance" for the 12 months to March 1998.

Barrie Stephens, chairman, said: "The second half of the year witnessed accelerating organic sales growth coupled with increased profits and margins. Order backlog at the year-end stood at £883 million, 23.4 per cent up on 1996, and



Allen Yurko, left, and Barrie Stephens are confident of producing another "solid overall performance" this year

this has given Siebe a very good start for the new year. "Although currencies remain a concern, the group is able to manage the situation by flexing production volumes between countries. We do not see any signs of a recession in our main markets — indeed, North America, the Far East and Middle Eastern markets

remain strong and we continue to see some signs of growth in continental Europe. The board is therefore very confident of continuing the underlying growth in Siebe's business operations."

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment.

The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.

Tempos, page 28

Pearson primed to buy Fairfax titles

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, confirmed yesterday that it is interested in spending up to A\$1.8 billion (£900 million) buying parts of John Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group.

Robert McKay, managing director of Australian Independent Newspapers, the Pearson-led consortium, said that the group had told the Australian Government it was

particularly interested in buying two Fairfax newspapers, the *Australian Financial Review* and the *Melbourne Age*, if they became available.

The Australian Government has indicated that it may liberalise media ownership law to allow Pearson to purchase the titles. Media analysts say that *The Australian Financial Review* could carry a price tag of about A\$400

million, while *The Age* could fetch up to A\$1.4 billion.

The proposal to relax the media ownership rules in the Sydney and Melbourne markets would also allow Kerry Packer to buy the *Melbourne Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, another Fairfax title, while retaining his Nine television network in Australia. Under the existing rules Mr Packer is prevented from in-

creasing his 15 per cent Fairfax stake while still owning Nine.

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

It is an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged.

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour. "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Stakis seeks £45m from sale of hotels

STAKIS, the hotels group, plans to sell eight three-star hotels, which it believes are not compatible with a portfolio of four-star hotels. The hotels are likely to fetch up to £45 million, which will be reinvested in the three Stakis operating divisions — hotels, casinos and health and leisure clubs. The move comes after the £327 million acquisition of five Metropole Hotels from Lourho last November and the decision to build four hotels.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to March 30 rose 86 per cent to £22.2 million thanks to the Metropole acquisition. The half-year dividend rises 11 per cent to 1.05p out of earnings up from 2.23p to 2.84p. Hotel profits reached £31.6 million, boosted by a maiden £11 million contribution from the 19 weeks trading of Metropole. Casino profits fell £1.2 million to £3.5 million. The health clubs made a maiden profit of £600,000.

Norbain chief departs

NORBAIN, the industrial distribution group, revealed yesterday that Mick Daw, the chief executive, is to leave by mutual consent on June 6. Alan John, a main board director, will assume day-to-day responsibility as group managing director pending the appointment of a new chief executive. The group expects to announce a full-year profit of at least £5 million for the year to April 30, against £5.3 million last time. The shares rose 14½p to 21½p.

Richards close to deal

RICHARDS, the Aberdeen-based textiles company, is close to agreeing the sale of its mill in Newtownards, County Down, Northern Ireland, to Regency Carpets. Richards expects to raise over £3 million from the sale, which will go towards paying off debts. It reported a pre-tax profit of £7,000 for the six months to March 31, compared to a loss of £511,000 a year ago. It will pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.07p on July 1. The company is "circumspect" about its short-term outlook.

Bupa's £34m purchase

COMMUNITY Hospitals is to sell 14 of its 16 nursing homes to a unit of Bupa for about £34 million. Community Hospitals said that the consideration for the disposal included £28.6 million in cash and the assumption by Bupa of obligations amounting to £5.4 million relating to Business Expansion Scheme financing arrangements. Completion is expected to take place on June 17. Community Hospitals intends to concentrate its resources on its hospitals.

Co-op pharmacist ahead

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CHEMISTS, the country's leading co-operative pharmacist, saw its trading surplus rise in the year to January 25 from £4.5 million to £4.75 million. Ray Carrington, the chief executive, said that the group was consolidating after a time of rapid expansion. NCC is largely owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which beat off a proposed bid from Galileo, the corporate vehicle of Andrew Regan.

Apax Finsbury formed

REA BROTHERS, the merchant bank, and Apax Partners, the venture capital group, have formed a joint venture to provide asset management services to investment trusts. The company, Apax Finsbury Investment Management, will take charge of two trusts with gross assets of £164 million. Apax recently recruited the award-winning team of Mark Tyndall, John Dodd, Derek Stuart and Lindsay Whitelaw from Ivory & Sime.

Unit trust prices appear on page 37

RAO Gazprom 1996 Annual Results

Extracts from a message to Shareholders from the Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Management Committee

"Notable achievements in a complex environment"

World's largest gas reserves

- The Company controls the world's largest gas reserves and its production provided more than a half of Russia's demand for energy resources
- The Company's taxes amount to 25% of all tax revenues of the federal budget
- The Company also proved that it is powerful enough to be the backbone of the national economy during this difficult period of transition
- Gazprom's business activities were characterized by stability and reliable supplies to gas consumers in Russia and abroad

Stability and reliable supplies to gas consumers

- Gas production increased by 5.2 bcm and 245 wells and 2,889 km of pipeline were put into operation
- Construction of the Yamal-Europe project, a pipeline from the Yamal Peninsula to Germany, proceeded smoothly
- Gazprom is capable of producing up to 1,740 mln m³ of gas per day
- A stabilization of gas consumption rates in Russia gives us a good reason to look optimistically at domestic sales prospects
- Last year the total volume of gas deliverable in the future under long term contracts increased by 51%

Lax payment discipline

- Decline in production in the main branches of the Russian economy greatly undermined payment discipline
- Non-payments for gas by consumers in Russia and "near abroad" countries reached 68.3 trillion roubles at year end
- The company received only 61% of sales value of gas delivered to the Russian market
- Due to a majority of state sector gas consumers delaying their payments, Gazprom is a net creditor of the federal budget
- Inability to pay on the part of the consumers greatly affected the ratio of the Company's accounts payable to accounts receivable

- Following extensive discussions with government, the necessity of further strengthening RAO Gazprom as a single entity and the flagship of the Russian economy has been reaffirmed

Significant changes to ensure a considerable increase in the Company's effectiveness

- During the year, the Company performed extensive preparatory work to introduce significant changes in the organizational structure of the industry, thereby ensuring a considerable increase in its effectiveness
- All drilling enterprises of RAO Gazprom were united into one separate company
- Subsidiaries engaged in gas production are being transformed into limited liability JSCs to perform only their direct function i.e. gas production
- To centralize gas sales, the Company established Mezhrregiongaz company, which has branches in more than 60 regions of the country to improve its financial performance through optimizing cash flows and settlements with gas consumers
- Enterprises not related to gas production and transportation will be converted into separate commercial structures and subsequently transferred into enterprises engaged in independent activity
- The third stage of reorganization will deal primarily with the system of managing joint ventures established with Gazprom's participation both in Russia and abroad
- The objective of structural changes is to promote competition in regional gas markets, expedite payment for supplied gas, reduce overheads and increase the Company's profits

A.I.Kazakov
Chairman of the Board

R.I.Vyakhirev
Chairman of the Management Committee

RAO Gazprom Consolidated Financial Data As At 1 January 1997		Bln. roubles
Fixed assets		359,701
Net assets		471,288
For the year ended 31 December 1996		
Sales of products (works, services) less VAT and excise tax		115,536
Balance-sheet profit		45,091
Profit tax		11,876
Net profit		33,215
Profit put to use		23,908
Share of minority in loss		46
Retained profit of reporting year		9,353

The consolidated financial data above were prepared in accordance with Russian accounting standards which differ to a significant extent from international accounting standards.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

Free entry to a National Trust summer evening event



This week *The Times* offers you the chance to go to one of 31 National Trust evening concerts or plays, absolutely FREE (a selection appears right). To get your free ticket collect four different tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week. You can also use the token printed in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday. You may apply for one free ticket per household. An application form, plus full details of how to book and the starting times of performances will also appear again in tomorrow's paper. The price of children's tickets varies so you are advised to call the inquiry number 0181 315 1111 on weekdays between 9am-5.30pm. For a list of other National Trust events please write to: The National Trust, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL, enclosing a 28p stamp.

*Free entry to the Fête Champêtre at Stourhead Landscape Garden, Sturton, Wiltshire, is available on Thurs and Fri July 24 and 25 only.

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Location
Concert	July 12	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 13	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 14	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 15	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 16	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 17	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 18	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 19	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 20	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 21	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 22	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 23	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 24	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 25	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 26	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 27	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 28	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 29	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 30	7.30pm	Stourhead
Concert	July 31	7.30pm	Stourhead



DANCE 1

US choreographer Mark Morris has waited a long time to bring his 1980s hit *L'Allegro* to London



DANCE 2

Belgian export: Alain Platel presents his study in sorrow to London's Turning World festival

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA

Handel proves he is still good box office as the Covent Garden Festival stages his *Ariodante*



TOMORROW

Derek Deane's in-the-round Albert Hall production of *Swan Lake* is reviewed

DANCE: Why an American choreographer now has two British opera companies on his CV. Plus dance and opera reviews

An Allegro driven by a Morris

Allen Robertson meets Mark Morris on the eve of his Coliseum debut

Nothing but the best will do for Mark Morris. Just look at his eclectic list of collaborators. He has devised choreography for Mikhail Baryshnikov and Peter Sellars, and collaborated with the likes of Yo Yo Ma and Paul Simon. Now he is working with English National Opera and Jane Glover, who will be conducting performances by the Mark Morris Dance Group at the London Coliseum next week. "She is fabulous," Morris gushes. "The mind-stretching Glover."

A man of passionate enthusiasms, who invariably talks in exclamation marks, Morris proudly wears his heart on his sleeve. He is an enthusiast, a characteristic which accounts for the joyous radiance that infuses his dances. This is particularly true of the work Morris is bringing to ENO. Handel's setting of the Milton poems known as *L'Allegro*, *il Penseroso* and *il Moderato*.

A triumph wherever it has toured, which is virtually everywhere — except Antarctica and London. *L'Allegro* has been hailed as one of the greatest late 20th-century dance works. It is a lyrical epic complete with five solo singers, a full chorus and a cast of 24 dancers, all sweeping along on a tide of ebullient energy. It is marvellously disarming, deceptively simple on its surface, yet filled with a subtly dazzling complexity which only a major artist could spin out with such felicitous ease.

"I'm not anti-London," the choreographer insists. "It's just that there

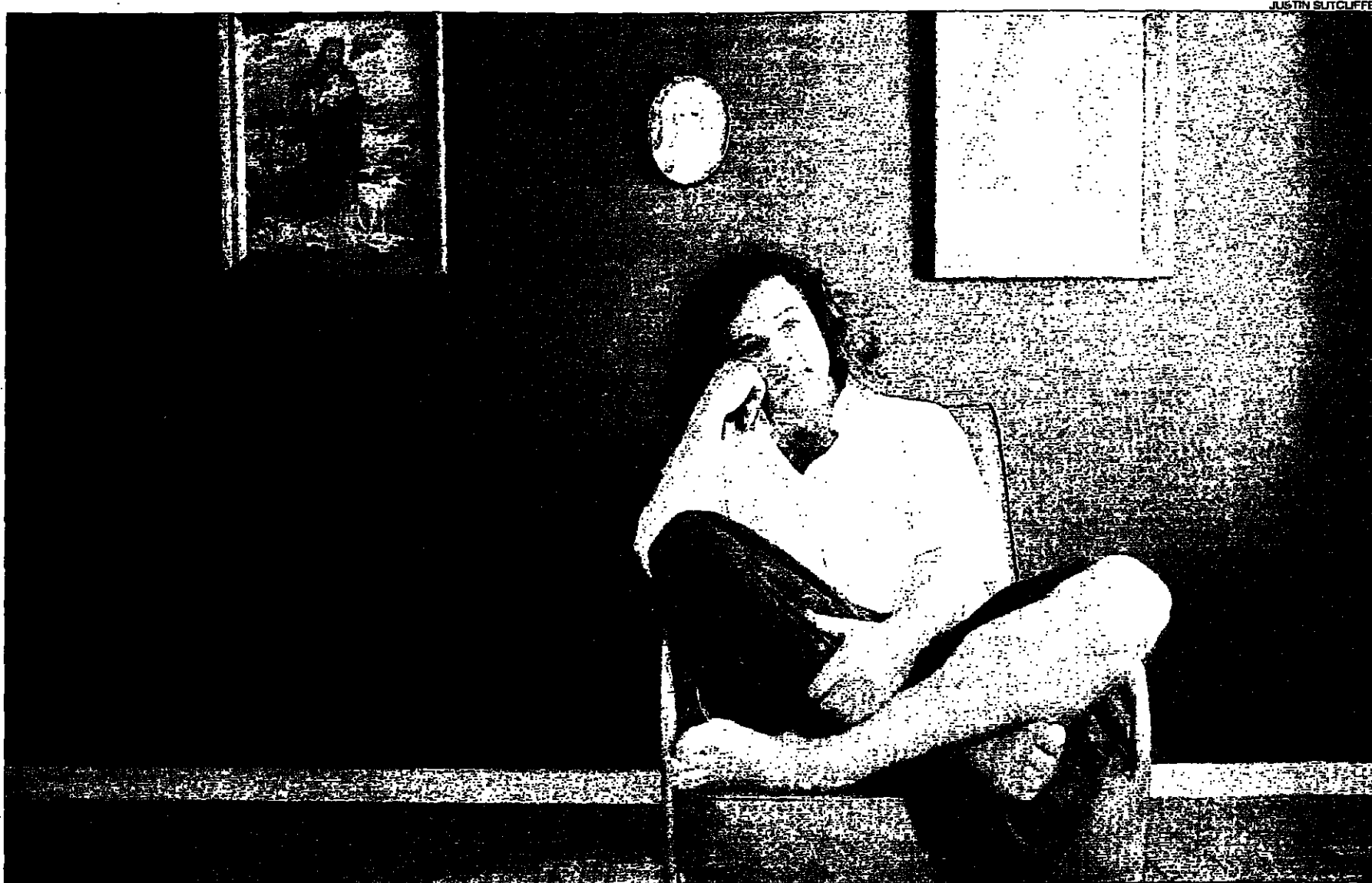
have been no theatres for us to fit into. I mean, come on, the old Sadler's Wells was a joke. I couldn't shoe-horn *L'Allegro* in there just to be able to claim I'd conquered London, could I? London is important, but there are limits, certain standards you have to uphold for yourself. But, yes, I'm utterly thrilled to finally have the chance to bring this to London."

Morris, Seattle-born, New York-based and recently turned 40, has a track record second to none when it comes to the Edinburgh Festival — six seasons in a row, each one a sell-out. "How did that happen?" he asks himself as his eyebrows head towards the ceiling. "I don't know, but we love it."

This year sees his biggest Edinburgh risk of all, a new staging of an 18th-century rarity, an *opéra-bouffe* by Rameau called *Platée*. "I've always loved Rameau, all 18th-century music in fact, but even I had never heard of it."

First suggested to Morris by Edinburgh supremo Brian MacMaster, the staging of *Platée* opens the Edinburgh Festival on August 11. It is a collaboration with the Royal Opera which transfers to the Barbican in London for a month of repertory performances in the autumn.

Morris's version, which has outlandish anthropomorphic costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, opens in a sleazy after-hours bar. The story, a crazily askew look at Greek myth, begins with Bacchus as a bartender. There is a terrarium perched on his bar and once we are launched into the story itself, this expands



The American choreographer Mark Morris at home in New York: with the theatre problem solved, he is "utterly thrilled to have the chance to bring *L'Allegro* to London"

like some dreamworld fantasy, into the full set for most of the opera.

"The whole story is silly," Morris says, "a practical joke. You know, in the 18th century they had head lice, body odour and rotten teeth; but they dressed fabulously and took dancing lessons. For them a big funny joke would be to kick a dwarf in the head. That's not so funny any more, but the point of this story is to make Juno jealous of Jupiter in order to reunite them. So the set-up is to have him fall in love with Platée, this hideously ugly swamp thing, who is played by a man, as it always was. It's a role for

a very high tenor, a voice that's not used much outside of barbershop quartets.

"It is this royal wedding where the bride herself just happens to be rather ugly. She is haughty and horny and powerful. It's like a carnival show in that it deals with the grotesque and the embarrassing."

Shaking his head and giggling, Morris admits that this is a very strange score with "lots of frogs and cuckoos and stuff like that written into the music". As with *L'Allegro*, his dance company will be taking a major part in the performances.

The morning after our interview in downtown Manhattan, Morris was due to fly to St Lucia to continue work on the script for a Broadway-bound musical, called *The Capeman*. It has a score by Paul Simon and is based on the true story of a desperate Latino who vainly tried to make it in the United States.

"You know," Morris admits, "I've turned down dozens of Broadway offers, but this one is different. We started by making a list of everything we hated about Broadway musicals and then set ourselves a goal of trying to figure out

how to succeed without using a single one of those clichés."

His own company is not involved in the Broadway show. They will be busy performing at the Barbican while he is in the final stages of rehearsals. "My dancers are very special. Some of them, we call them the ancient régime, have been with me for 17 years. Mature dancers are better. All right, part of your job as a dancer is to be obedient, to follow commands; but if that's all you're doing, it quickly becomes boring."

"With my lot, well, maybe they're not so fast or so hard or so whiz-

bang as a kid could be, but, frankly, I'm not interested in death-defying. I want fabulous, beautiful artistry. I'm not interested in dancers as Kleenex. I'm not a director who says 'Oh, I need another cute blond for this part who fits this costume.' No, that's not what it's about if you want to make art. OK, I admit that's what I do. You have to get beyond that terrifying sense of 'youth culture', and that's what I do," Morris coos with a smile worthy of a Buddha. "Embrace it. Use it. That's how you win."

● *L'Allegro* opens at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300) on Thursday

Madness on the mean streets

THE characters in Belgian choreographer Alain Platel's *La Tristezza Complice*, presented at the South Bank as part of the Turning World festival, are riding a rollercoaster of painful emotions. Even without a translation of the title — *A Shared Sorrow* — it is immediately obvious that his

disparate collection of the disabled and the dysfunctional is united by sadness.

The setting is a city street, the men and women familiar sights in the modern urban landscape — the kind of weirdos you cross the road to avoid. There is a semi-naked rollerskating skinhead, an en-

DANCE

La Tristezza Complice Queen Elizabeth Hall

raged transvestite, a plain Jane clutching her handbag like a terrified rabbit. A brief moment of lucidity introduces them, but they quickly disintegrate into chaos, spinning out of control like inmates in a mental institution who have escaped their minders.

"The graceless choreography grows out of the characters' strange behaviour: repetitive, violent, sexually aggressive, self-damaging, incoherent and fevered. Bodies are broken and reassembled into misshapen curiosities, duets are murderously athletic, and academic dance is perverted by some heavyhanded mimicking. The movement is in

stark contrast to the meticulous order and harmony of Purcell's music, scored — rather bizarrely, but also rather effectively — for ten accordions and a female singer (the handbag-clutching Euridike De Beul).

The style of movement, both naturalistic and quirkily metaphorical, could grow wearying were it not for the superb actor-dancers in Platel's Ghent-based company, Les Ballets C de la B. The portraits they draw of their individual characters are so focused and sympathetic that they suck you into their centre of pain. Platel delivers his theatre straight. It is a dismal world out there on the street, but one where a little friendly tenderness can offer comfort to the wounded. You may be crazy, Platel is saying, but you are not alone.

DEBRA CRAINE

Opera

Too much too young

HANDEL, as performed by the Opera Theatre Company of Dublin, has long been a welcome feature of the BOC Covent Garden Festival, and it is good that with the absence of the Irish team this year the management should have persisted, and engaged the young Early Opera Company for three sell-out performances of *Ariodante*. It is a pity that a less familiar work was not chosen.

Ariodante has had much exposure recently, and comparisons are unavoidable. There is always pleasure in hearing fresh, well-schooled young voices tackling Handel, but capability on its own is not quite enough: there are untold depths of human feeling to be plumbed, and Wednesday's first night was more a matter of the dipping than plunging in headlong. Similarly with the young period instrument players — all perfectly capable, but not quite avoiding the impression of saw-saw-saw, chug-along Handel.

Sarah Alexander's production is minimal. It is not quite enough to put the cast in 18th-century frocks and let them get on with it: a coherent dramatic-visual style has to be devised, and then executed consistently. Richard Aylwin's set was a large reflective

OPERA

Ariodante St Clement Danes

translucent panel, with many through-a-glass-darkly effects, to little discernible purpose. Again, there has been too much inventively staged Handel recently for this to wash.

There were no significant cuts and the dance music was included which, given the absence of dancers, was a curious decision. Some of the cast enunciated Amanda Holden's translation as if the words meant something, others just enunciated. Christine Rice made an engaging smiling-damned-villain of Polinesio, her chewing of a peach at the start of the second act splendidly insolent. Jenni Bern sparkled confidently as her dupe, Dalinda, and Louise Mott relished Ariodante's virtuosos numbers. One advantage of casting a woman in this castrato role should have been less spectacularly wrinkled stockings, but perhaps chaps — at least emasculated ones — are better at these things after all.

RODNEY MILNES

IRISH THEATRE

Poetic barn dance

THE stony, grey soil of Monaghan celebrated in the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh provides fertile ground for the latest, probably greatest adaptation of the writer's autobiographical novel, *Tarry Flynn*, by Dublin's Abbey Theatre.

Kavanagh's text provides all the linguistic sparkle any adapter might need, from luminous poetic reverie to sprightly Wildean epigram. Nevertheless Conal Morrison, who has adapted and now directs, has enhanced Kavanagh's literary gems with settings of rambunctious, madly playful theatricality.

Tarry Flynn (James Kennedy), the only male in a small farming family, is buckling under the strain of tending potatoes, while fantasising about writing poetry and seducing the local girls. In truth, the idea of even saying hello to one of the objects of his affection sends him into a sweaty fluster.

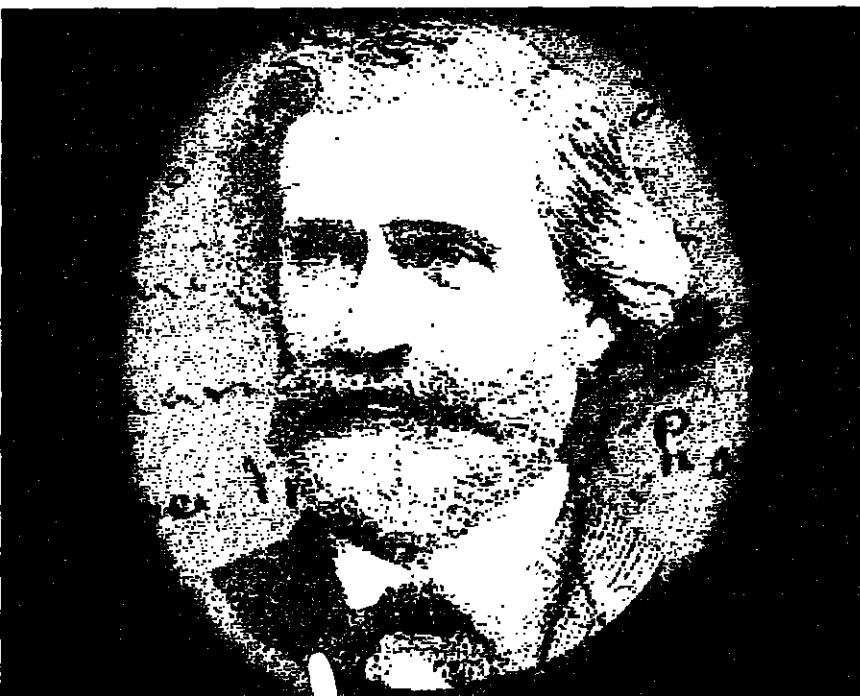
Noticing the new energy in Irish contemporary dance, an inspired Morrison has siphoned off all the talent he needs, and has given a choreographer David Bolger his head.

The show is bracingly blatant about its first priority: entertainment. The cast leap and climb around their farmyard as though at work in a big top, trapdoors pop to reveal ghostly bishops and saints, hidden compartments swing open to release sexual fantasy, cast members play chickens, a snarling, anti-clerical hound and even a new-born calf.

Kennedy makes a powerfully attractive Tarry, but everybody on stage pulls their weight. If the production has its faults, they are mainly the faults of flagrant theatrical ambition.

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POP 1
An audacious variety of sounds enlivens Ben Harper's third LP, *The Will To Live*



POP 2
Garry Christian strikes out on his own with the impressive debut release, *Your Cool Mystery*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3
A recent No 1 hit rekindles interest in Olive's previously unsuccessful debut, *Extra Virgin*



POP 4
It's a perfect marriage of punk and heavy metal as Foo Fighters play live at London's Astoria

Hey Ben, where's Jimi?

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair thrills to Ben Harper's rare blend of spirituality with a hard rock edge

BEN HARPER

The Will To Live (Virgin Records America 7243 8 44178, £13.99)
WITH performers such as Keb' Mo', Corey Harris and Eric Bibb all on the way up, a new "black acoustic blues" movement seems to have coalesced around Ben Harper since the Californian singer and slide guitarist released his debut album in 1994. But it is Harper who continues to set the pace, stretching out in various new and unusual directions on his third LP, *The Will To Live*.

The straight acoustic numbers are, in fact, very much in the minority, and the album is dotted with an audacious variety of sounds, from the big guitar heroics and Arabic-style violin of *Glory and Consequence* to the breathtaking funkadelic horn-section arrangement of *Mama's Trippin'*. With his hippie/humanist lyrics ("Every moral has a story") and pleading vocal tone, there is something of the folk singer in Harper. But his rhythm section comprising Juan Nelson (bass) and the awesome Dean Butterworth (drums) are more obviously schooled in the power trio tradition of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, and never more evidently so than on the barnstorming finale of the title track, which sounds a bit like *Hey Joe*. It is a rare thrill to hear authentic, back-to-the-roots spirituality with such a hard, contemporary rock edge.

GARRY CHRISTIAN

Your Cool Mystery (Murray Field Music/eastwest 0630-17527, £13.99)
THE Christians were always such a wet group, too old and earnest to be a proper pop band, but too lightweight to be taken very seriously. They quietly withered on the vine in the early 1990s, so it comes as something of a surprise now to find Garry Christian — the bald,

interesting-looking one — back with a solo debut.

Even more surprisingly, it is actually rather good. The ten new songs, all co-written by Christian and producer Andy Wright, have a gritty, British soul swagger, rather in the Roachford mould, but given a modern twist with odd, swirling effects and other, post-trip hop production touches.

"I dream my life away/But I don't sleep much," Christian sings on the title track, which has to be one of the great, unrequited love songs of this or any year.

OLIVE

Extra Virgin (RCA/BMG 74321481142, £13.49)
OLIVE's surprise No 1 hit, *You're Not Alone*, has rekindled interest in the group's previously unsuccessful debut album, *Extra Virgin*, originally released last year.

The trio boasts a textbook combination of late-1990s talents, comprising keyboard player Tim Kellett (formerly of Simply Red, a keen pop ear), programmer Robin Taylor-Firth (dance/club credibility) and Ruth-Ann Boyle (skinny, spacey-looking singer with an arctic cool voice). And with its centre of gravity located somewhere between the mysterious underground noodlings of Portishead and the arch, girl-pop of Alisha's Attic, *Extra Virgin* is a collection of tremendous stylistic poise if rather less substance.

Timing is everything for a sound like this, and after several attempts, Olive have got the moment and the music in sync, at least. But apart from being overshadowed by *You're Not Alone*, the other songs, with the exception of *Miracle*, lack any broader sense of purpose.

PENTHOUSE

Gutter Erotica (World Domination/RTM WDOM34, £14.49)
SO MUCH of rock music pretends to be nasty while actually being rather nice. Not so *Gutter Erotica* by Penthouse, a huge, ugly, slobbering great brute of an album that will have an instantly purgative effect on your sound system. Although loosely built on blues



Ben Harper with Juan Nelson (bass) and Dean Butterworth (drums), schooled in the power trio tradition of the Jimi Hendrix Experience

foundations, songs such as *Road Rash*, *Harmonic Surf Spastic* and *Gus' Neck* quickly establish a raging impetus that recalls the sonic extremism of Steve Albini's shortlived group Rapeman or, more recently, the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion.

And if you want something slow, then *La Grotte D'Amour*, with its distinct echoes of Led Zeppelin's *Dazed and Confused*, and *A Deviant Soiree* are songs that drag

themselves across the speakers like some great desert beast slouching its way towards some hideously perverted nirvana.

Gutter Erotica is about as hardcore as rock'n'roll gets while still being recognisable as music. The amazing thing is that, although they had to go to America to get a recording contract, these guys come from North London. Strike one to those prissy, ironic, postmodern Brits.

1	(-)	Open Road	Gary Barlow (RCA)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(1)	Do It Yourself	Seahorses (Geffen)
4	(1)	Blood on the Dance Floor	Michael Jackson (Epic)
5	(3)	Flaming Pie	Paul McCartney (Parlophone)
6	(4)	Republica	Republica (Coca-Cola)
7	(5)	White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury)
8	(40)	Romance	Andrea Bocelli (Philips)
9	(7)	Travelling Without Moving	Jamiroquai (Gory S)
10	(19)	Before the Rain	Eternal (EMI)

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Figures in brackets denote last week's position

High octane rhythms

THE world of Khaled is steeped in drama. The Algerian-born singer, now one of the biggest stars in France, is under constant threat from Islamic fundamentalists offended by his dalliance with Western pop culture. Bomb warnings are a daily occurrence and Khaled's dilemma is that the greater his success, the more of a target he becomes for the extremists of the Front Islamique du Salut.

This one-off London date by the man they call "the king of raï" came in the middle of a hugely successful European tour, and the night security and a large crowd shoe-horned into a venue far too small made for a physically un-

WORLD MUSIC

Khaled
Astoria, WI

comfortable but electrically charged evening.

In Arabic raï means discourse, but the word has come to signify the music of a young Algeria that openly challenges traditional Islamic society. Yet it is not necessary to know any of this to appreciate Khaled. His heady hybrid of Islamic-tinged vocals and Western rock accompaniment is exotic but highly commercial. While his voice never strays far from the kasbahs and souks of North Africa, the arrangements possess a finely tuned pop sensibility and his nine-piece band is as unrelenting as a farwa.

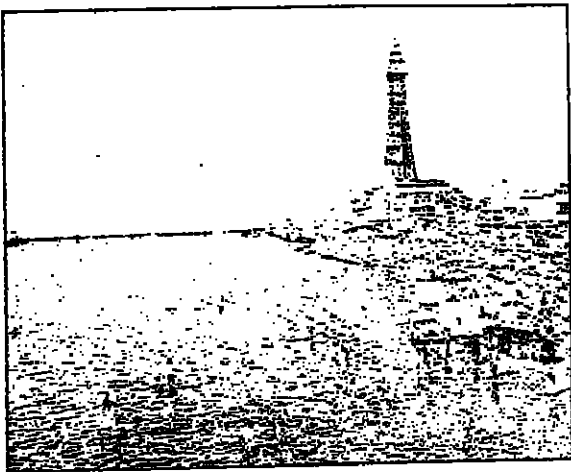
He sings in Arabic and French but his danceable, high-octane rhythms speak a musical Esperanto and his influences are diverse. *Wahrane Wahrane* and *Deini Essekra* were full of compelling Maghreb mystery and menace. An extended version of *Aicha*, the haunting ballad which camped out at the top of the French charts for three months at the end of last year, owed something to its phrasing to the great French chansonniers. The reggae-tinged *Ouelli el Darek* showed that Bob Marley is just as big in Algeria as in the rest of the Third World.

Khaled is a dynamic performer and the crowd whooped, yelled and danced, making this easily the sweetest night since I saw the same show in Paris at the start of the year. When this venue is less than full, one can hear the trains on the Underground rumbling far below. On this occasion passengers on the Northern Line were more likely to have been disturbed by the sounds of a wild night above.

NIGEL
WILLIAMSON

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Grunge storm-troopers go hell for leather



Foo Fighters deliver a thrilling dose of assault-course rock'n'roll at its physical finest

WHAT a dark horse Dave Grohl turned out to be. David Sinclair writes. From drummer in Nirvana to lead singer, guitarist and chief songwriter of Foo Fighters is a career move which still only seems plausible in retrospect. Now onto his second album with them, *The Colour and the Shape*, he has also become a frontman with a commanding stage presence. A wiry character with rubberised legs and a voice that alternated between an anodyne drawl and a piercing shriek, Grohl led his troops into an opening salvo of *Wind Up*, followed by *Wasshed* at the Astoria on Wednesday, and for a moment the idea that grunge had died with Kurt Cobain seemed faintly ridiculous.

A perfect marriage of punk and what used to be called heavy metal, the sound ricocheted round the hall while

Foo Fighters
Astoria, WI

bodies tumbled over each other in an abandoned orgy of physical release among the crowd in front of the stage. This massive output of energy by the fans was reciprocated on stage, particularly by stripped-to-the-waist drummer Taylor Hawkins, whose considerable musical talent was clearly supplemented by the strength and stamina of an endurance athlete. As a celebration of the sheer physicality involved in making music, this performance took some beating.

But it wasn't exclusively a case of triumph through force majeure. *Hey Johnny Park*, a slower song with a sensual chorus, was an early departure from the hell-for-leather format; the whimsical

harmony pop of the group's best-known hit, *Big Me*, was played with pleasantly understated affection; and the long, slow *February Stars* proved their most ambitious song, even if it did expose certain weaknesses in Grohl's voice and fell victim to the early verses to the feverish hum of excitement still coursing through the audience.

Inevitably though, it was the harder, faster songs, dispatched with the well-drilled precision of a dawn raid, that carried the day. From the peapod, neo-Ramones stamp of *Monkey Wrench*, through the hyperactive tempo and bloodcurdling yells of *Enough Space* and on to the vast, stroboscopic climax of *New Way Home* and inevitable finale of *This Is A Call*, the momentum was overwhelming, resistance futile. A thrilling dose of assault-course rock'n'roll at its finest.

Rooted in sound tradition

LAMMAS
Sourcebook (EPZ Records EPZ 1022)
FROM the opening bars, in which a flute and an acoustic guitar join in a rapid Breton dance before giving way to keening tenor saxophone, even before the plaintive voice of Christine Tobin or the Uilleann pipes of Steafan Hannigan are heard on this, the quinter's fourth album, the sound is unmistakably Lammass's. Much has been made of their "fusion" of Celtic music and jazz, but on this recording, which concentrates on the assured interaction between the three founders, saxophonist/flautist Tim Garland, guitarist Don Paterson and drummer

JAZZ ALBUMS

Mark Fletcher, the band combine folkish purity with full-blooded improvisation so unconsciously that the results sound wholly natural. Rooted in tradition (a setting of Burns's *Ae Fond Kiss* is a delight) yet thoroughly contemporary, *Sourcebook* is the band's finest album.

MADELINE PEYROUT
Dreamland (Atlantic 7567-82946-2)
HAVING spent her late teens busking in Paris, and wowing critics and aficionados alike with her contribution to a Lincoln Center tribute to Duke

Ellington's film music, in which she sang *Saddest Tale* so affectingly that one observer said: "She might as well have been channeling Billie Holiday", Peyroux is something of a publicist's dream. The *Holiday* comparison aside, though — and she undoubtedly owes her timbre and phrasing to her great inspiration — Peyroux is that rarity, a singer who can leave her stamp on anything from Patsy Cline to Fats Waller material without a hint of contrivance, and as a result, could become not only the new Holiday, but the new kd lang or Mary Coughlan. An extraordinary debut.

CHRIS PARKER

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POP 5
Battle for the teen charts: from wannabe Sean Maguire, who hasn't hit the big time...



POP 6
...to Gary Barlow, who has, the world of boy-pop is proving there's more to life than the Spice Girls

THE TIMES POP ARTS



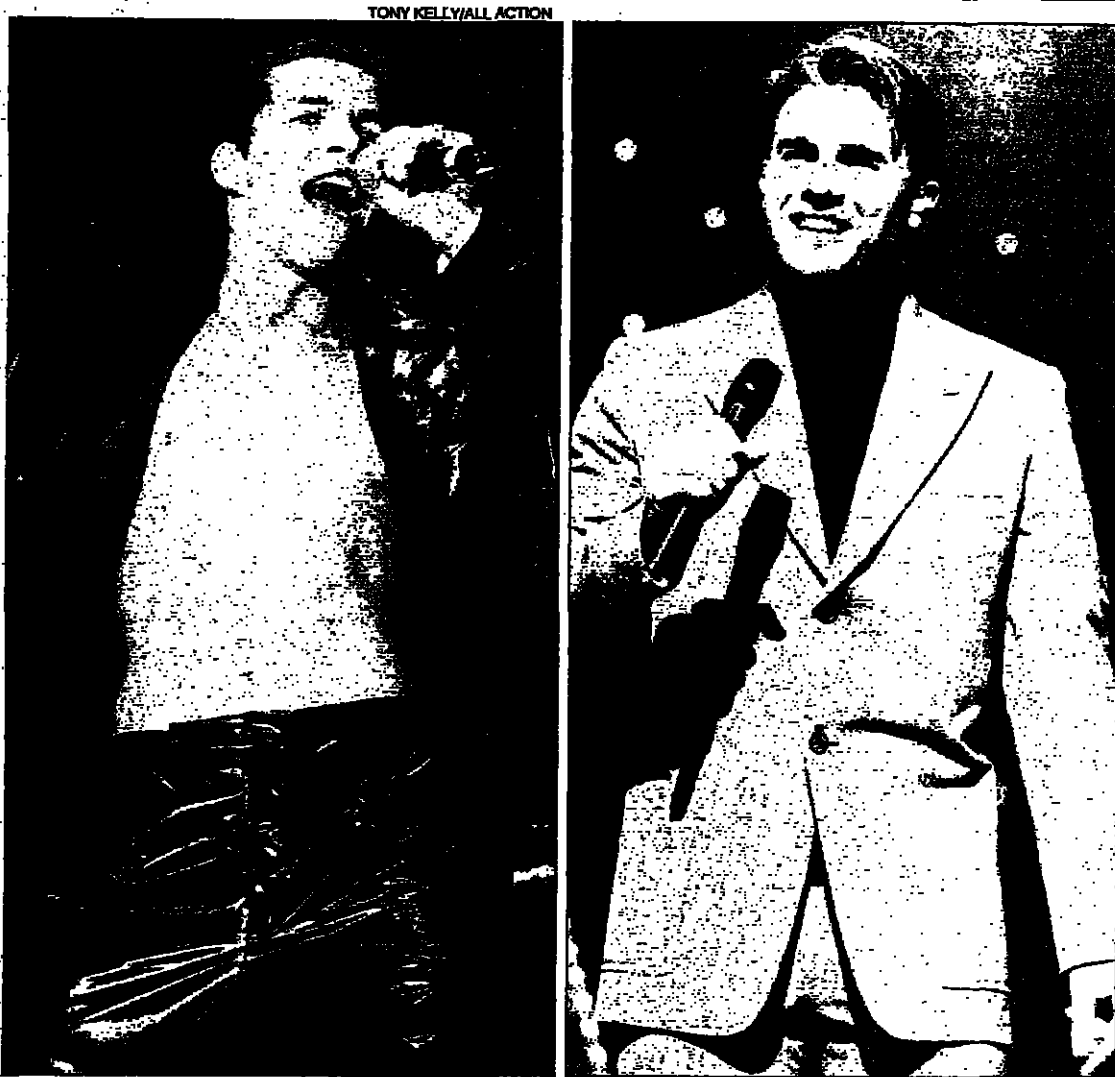
POP 7
Caitlin Moran travels to Tribal Gathering in pursuit of Kraftwerk, the godfathers of dance



POP 8
Three and a half years after disbanding the Fat Lady Sings, Ireland's Nick Kelly is back

Sex wars in pop's playground

Has the phenomenal success of the Spice Girls left any room for the glamour boys in the teen pop stakes? Alan Jackson reports



Hit and miss: Sean Maguire failed where Gary Barlow looks, for the moment at least, to be succeeding

It is hard not to feel sorry for Sean Maguire. Had he stuck to acting (he has been well reviewed for long-running roles in *EastEnders* and the drama series *Dangerfield*), his star might still be in the ascendancy. His mistake, though, was to want to be a pop hero and, duly armed with a contract from Parlophone, he spent the best part of three years putting out records — hits, most of them, but at a horrendous level of both sales and memorability — and performing to excitable live audiences lured, largely, by the presence of bigger, better names at the top of teen-appeal bills.

Perhaps because he so patently, nakedly wanted to be loved for his music, such as it is, a particular relish was taken in reporting his disappointments. There was the debut album which hardly anyone wanted to buy. The concert cancelled recently because the gossip columnists alleged, only four tickets had been sold. The unhappy attempt to remodel his boy-next-door image into something more grown-up and contemporary with a last, unconvincingly Britpop-ish single release. And, finally, on the eve of his 21st birthday, a parting of the ways with Parlophone — the lots of "Sean Sean Dumped By His Label" headlines.

Maguire's experience of the pop world could offer a salutary lesson to other wannabes. Wanting success even achieving it, but in moderation — is not enough to satisfy the money men and win you a shot at longevity. As in any industry where image and fashion exert an influence, the magic combination is one of talent, marketability and, perhaps most important of all, felicitous timing. Maguire's misfortune was that he was attempting to sell his wares at exactly the time when a score of other male acts, group or solo, were jostling to benefit from Take That's demise. And many were less successful than he.

So has the concurrent emergence and, as yet, unstoppable rise of their female replacements, the ubiquitous Spice Girls, finally killed off the cover-version-loving, dance-routine-prone and generally vacuous entity that is boy-pop? Not according to Gavin Reeve, the editor of *Smash Hits*, a barometer of trends at this especially fickle end of the music scene. "The Spice Girls are already 100 times bigger than Take That ever

were," he says. "But what their success has done is reawaken interest in pop music in general, 90 per cent of which is still made by boys. Currently, acts like the Backstreet Boys, 911, 3T and Damage are all getting Top Five hits, doing better than their equivalents were doing back when 'Take That' were at their peak."

Publicist Carolyn Norman supports the view that girl power has revitalised a tired genre. "They've

been a total breath of fresh air, and the market has exploded again as a result of what they've achieved. They certainly haven't put the tin lid on male acts, though — if anything, they've carried some of them along on their coat tails."

She should know, having been involved in Take That's launch, and worked subsequently with Bad Boys Inc and Gemini, two casualties of the boy-pop wars. Now she is looking

after No Mercy, a trio of Florida-based Cuban-Americans described by last week's *Top of the Pops* presenter Mark Radcliffe as looking like waiters, but who find this no handicap in regularly achieving the upper reaches of the charts.

The informed view — perhaps revelatory to those who observe the battle for the pocket-money vote only from a distance — is that even the youngest consumers are able to sort

out the wheat from the chaff. One observer, begging not to be named, cited the manufactured Upside Down as having caused the biggest dent in the image of boy-pop. "That BBC documentary about their launch looked the whole market, making it look as if you could cynically pick four nice-looking blokes, put them in the recording studio, then sit back to wait for the money to pour in. It doesn't work like that. The punters may be young, but they're not so gullible."

Reeve's postbag is daily proof of this, and certainly his magazine has been scabbing about those acts (poor Upside Down, even poorer Gemini) whom readers judge wanting. "We receive around 3,000 letters each week, and if 100 of those are saying that Gemini are rubbish then we will take note." And they did. "A Right Pair Of Arses" ran the headline after that duo's naked rears were pictured in the *Daily Star*. "Gemini hit rock bottom with even more bum notes," ran the copy. "Bleugh! And again, heurgh! They've done the impossible — made Upside Down look like Oasis in the credits stars."

Enough to make you think that Maguire has escaped lightly, with at least a parallel career into which to retreat. "The Spice Girls would never have got so far if the records weren't convincing," Reeve says. "You need a decent song, a good tune, before people will pay attention. And if you're good-looking and entertaining as well, you've got every chance in the world." Boyzone believe so, their successful Take That as our premier boy band. The latter's prime talent, Gary Barlow, certainly hopes so, as he bids to follow George Michael in turning teen-pop stardom into enduring adult appeal. Sadly, Maguire probably hoped and believed it too, but was without that aforementioned magic combination, in particular its crucial timing element.

That the line of hopefulness is unending is made clear by my own postbag. The day after I spoke to Norman, I received a press release about her latest charges, an all-male four-piece signed to Polydor. "Code Red have served their apprenticeship, wowed the world, and are about to Kick Ass," it reads. All in all, enough to make even a newly-dropped 21-year-old feel old.

JAZZ CONCERTS

Taking chances with freedom

IN A recent interview, the New York-based saxophonist Tim Berne encapsulated the problem facing those contemporary jazz musicians dissatisfied with conventional wisdom regarding structure in the music: "I don't want to know there's going to be a trumpet solo, then a bass solo, then a piano solo and then they all play the theme at the end... that's all been done 30, 40 years ago. What we do is take chances when we improvise. You don't know how a piece is going to end because we don't."

Two London concerts last weekend, one (at the Purcell Room) by Berne leading two groups, Bloodcount and Paraphrase, the other (at Blackheath Concert Halls) by the dozen of UK improvising pianists, Keith Tippett, in charge of the 21-piece big band Tapestry, demonstrated a variety of techniques for dealing with the issue.

Bloodcount, a quintet featuring Berne on alto and baritone, plus tenor, guitar, bass and drums, use written material, but in an unconventional manner. Rather than stating the written theme, improvising on it, then restating it, Bloodcount will either allow it to coalesce from its constituent elements in the middle of what sounds like free improvisation, or

suddenly switch from extemporised dialogues between, say, alto and tenor, into a wild-sounding head played at breakneck speed, before the piece dissolves again into relative freedom.

Paraphrase, a trio comprising Berne, bass and drums, play totally unplanned, spontaneously improvised music — an approach favoured by the "splinter" vocal duos and instrumental trio that constituted the first half of Tapestry's concert, though not by the exhilarating big-band performance that followed.

Although Tippett's band played a great deal of written material, its members are drawn from the cream of Europe's freer players. Thus Basie-right, exuberant, hard-swinging composed ensemble passages alternated with extemporised dialogues, or with free interplay involving the entire saxophone section, or simply featured soloists exploring the possibilities of particular chord sequences.

Throughout, though, the music remained firmly under Tippett's control, so that it became the instrument for his improvisational genius, enabling him to take the "chances" to which Berne refers, and — like Berne — to provide enthralling music in the process.

CHRIS PARKER

Oh happy night

Manu Dibango Festival Hall

THOUGH no one escapes from a Manu Dibango concert without indulging in a few dance steps to the insidious beat of Soul Makossa, the presence of the Rev Basil Meade and his London Community Gospel Choir helped to make this more than an evening of greatest hits.

No matter that the partnership seemed under-rehearsed in places: this meeting of church and Afro-pop, funded by the British Council, has enormous potential.

Dibango's interest in religious music is no overnight phenomenon. Flick through the Cameroonian saxophonist's new compilation, *African Soul*, and you will find a contemporary gospel anthem, *Sunday Morning*, recorded almost 30 years ago in the company of Arelia Franklin's sister, Carolyn. Before being sent to Paris to study — and to fall in love with the expatriate jazz of Sidney Bechet and Bud Powell — he sang in the choir of his local church.

Dibango could never be described as the most delicate of saxophonists: he evokes the visceral, crowd-pleasing aggression of his

early idol, the ill-fated American tenor player King Curtis. It may be a limited formula, but it remains a powerful one none the less, particularly when Dibango chose to bounce riffs against the combined voices of the LGC. If much of today's over-produced gospel recordings resemble watered-down Luther Vandross, Meade and his colleagues deliver the old-time, hand-clapping inspiration.

The compact but no less imposing four-piece band stoked up a sleepy reggae pulse on *Elonge*. Earlier Dibango had opened in an unusually restless mood with a series of seductive saxophone phrases constructed atop the swelling, hymn-like organ chords of his keyboard player and arranger, Frédéric Gaillardet.

At the close there were no surprises about the choice of encore, but it is a long time since I have heard *Oh Happy Day* sung with quite as much abandon.

CLIVE DAVIS

Me and dance music get on like cats and peanuts — I'm aware that it exists: I can understand fully why others may gorge themselves: I've even cautiously sniffed it a couple of times, but I still can't quite work out how I would consume it. My teeth are the wrong shape for grinding it, or something.

But mindful of a book on the history of the Renaissance, wherein it was detailed that the majority of Venetians thought all the new poetry, literature and art were a load of new-fangled bobbins, I became determined to embrace all that is new and current. Last Saturday's Tribal Gathering — the techno Glastonbury — seemed to be the ideal place to start. It's in the grounds of Luton Hoo, has all the leading luminaries of dance from the past 20 years playing, and the weather was forecast to be mighty fine.

The first notable difference is that dance people dress up

Swept into the maelstrom

A Tribal Gathering is just the place to test the potential of dance music

and hurt themselves into partying. The average rock festival is full of skinny boys and big girls, all dressed in faded black, talking about how much their parents, like, really screwed them up. Tribal Gathering is full of kids, debauching whether to go on the Dodgems now and dance later, or whether it's better to simply dance on the Dodgems. One boy had painted his head, hair and neck in blue camouflage; there were girls with tinsel, tiaras and baubles knitted into their hair; and the odd, footballer disco chick tottering around in strappy red plastic sandals and a silver miniskirt. I felt rather drab in sky-blue PVC and a Mary Poppins hat.

"Tribal", as it is called with gum-chewing briskness, is split into five tents. Planet Earth, Trans-Europe, Arctic,



CAITLIN MORAN

Oceanic and Sahara. Each is decorated with hyper-delic imagination: Planet Earth is hung with vast, milky moons; and Oceanic has a large pink octopus strung from the centre, with its tentacles wound around the internal scaffolding. Planet Earth is the temporary home of Icelandic electro troubadours Gus Gus — a nine-piece collective from Reykjavik. Of the two lead singers, the 16-year-old Hafdis is the screamingly obvious future star — her cartoon-like, obsidian-eyed beauty is in-

creased a thousand-fold by a range of minxy, Ren and Stimpy-like facial expressions as she dances. The bass causes your spine to fold in on itself and implode — just in time for Hafdis to bring calm with her serene lullabying. So far, dance music is great.

Crossing over the field to the Octopus tent, it's time for Cornershop. Once Third Division indie caterwaulers, the Asian five-piece have spent the past year touring America, soaking up hip-hop, funk and rap. As a result, Cornershop

are a biblical-sized revelation — dizzy star mantras are undercut with booming hip-hop beats and a sense of eclectic reveling; it's a Beck-like gumbo of joyful experimentalism all kept tight by that fist-like drum and bass. I start to believe I've found a way to chew the peanut of dance music.

With night falling like a weary crow, we hie ourselves over to the Trans-Europe tent. Even though it's still two hours until Kraftwerk come onstage, their legend is such that we still have to fight through the waiting crowds to get anywhere near the front. It's not surprising — Kraftwerk are the godfathers of dance. It was 1978's *Trans Europe Express* — based on an imaginary train journey, and the incessant rhythm of the wheels — that revolutionised

music. It was *Trans Europe Express* that was picked up in Chicago clubs and triggered Chicago House. *Trans Europe Express* that Afrika Bambaata plundered for the seminal hip-hop *Planet Rock*. All of this is explained to me by a very cool-looking boy wearing a miner's hat as we wait for them to take to the stage. Unfortunately, the minute Kraftwerk appear, in their first live outing since 1991, my PVC fatally overheats and I faint like a shiny sack of potatoes. At The Cool Festival, during The Coolest Band's set, I am hauled over the security barriers and laid out behind Kraftwerk's four video screens. I have choked on the peanut of dance. I go home.

The upshot of the "Tribal Experiment" is that PVC has left my life forever; Kraftwerk are on the turntable constantly — but only when the air-conditioning is on — and I've started eating a lot of peanut butter sandwiches. Peanuts are quite easy to eat, really.

Writer Nick Kelly meets the other Nick Kelly — an Irish pop survivor now making a level-headed comeback

Let's get this straight from the start. This writer is not, nor has ever been, the same Nick Kelly who fronted the Fat Lady Sings. I would have remembered. Conversely, the Nick Kelly who did front that band — one of the most respected Irish rock acts of the 1980s — swears he has never filed copy to *The Times* in his life. In fact, he works as a copywriter in an advertising agency in Dublin, far from the maddening music industry crowd — who nearly drove him off the rails.

Now, three and a half years after he disbanded the group, he returns with a new album. That he has no desire to give up the day job is indicative of his reluctance to go through the industry treadmill again. "You can feel really insecure

One-man band on a trapeze

when you're with record companies and trying to get your music on the radio," he says. "You worry about things like whether you're fitting in with the zeitgeist and whether you're attractive or interesting enough."

"If you're on a major label, they have expectations of you and then it becomes quite hard to say 'I don't want to do this or I don't want to do that'. Making videos was the part of the job that I had no interest in. If I was a cook, it would be

like cleaning the gibles out of the chicken." The Fat Lady Sings' record company, EastWest, was as shocked as Kelly's band mates when he decided that the show must not go on. *Drunkard Logic*, grating the Top 50 of the UK singles chart, had just registered as the band's biggest success. But the London-based label must have been frustrated that the plaudits heaped on the Fat Lady Sings' two albums, *Twist* and *Johnson*, had not translated into cash sales. Nevertheless, the band had built up a sizeable fan base in the UK and Ireland by the time they split up, boasting a mailing list with an estimated 7,000 addresses.

"To receive unsolicited letters from people who don't have to like you but do is very touching, because artists in general are just as insecure as they are arrogant," Kelly says. "Creativity is not born out of confidence but insecurity; it's a question, not an answer. There's always a part of you that's saying 'Please like me, please justify my existence'."



Nick Kelly: "On a major label, they have expectations"

It was the loyalty of these admirers upon which Kelly drew when it came to financing his first solo album, *Between Trapezes*, which was released this month. Loath as he was to cede artistic control of the project, Kelly by-passed the usual route of record company funding and raised the necessary money by writing to his fans and getting them to invest in its recording. In return for sending the retail price of the album to Kelly by post, each was guaranteed not

just a copy of the CD on its completion but a mention on the sleeve notes as well.

In securing independent distribution for the album in the UK, the final piece of the jigsaw fell into place. Appropriately Kelly named his label, on which he is the sole artist, Self-Possessed Records.

Indeed, an apposite title would be *Do It Yourself* — but the Seahorses have already got that base covered. As it is, *Between Trapezes* is just as apt a name for an album that deals with the emotional gymnastics of relationships. From the bare-knuckled defiance of *Crawl* to the bare-hearted lament of *Tiburon Prayer*, it is at its most poignant when documenting the bruises sustained after the fall.

"Everybody is waiting to fall in love," Kelly declares. "We're all waiting to be betrayed or waiting to be saved or to have some truth told to us. And so much of our life is just trudging through anaesthesia. But every so often you have an aesthetic — a moment of actual feeling. Even if I don't sell another record, it is worth it if I can truly represent these moments in my music."

An acoustically-driven collection of mature, carefully crafted songs (including collaborations with Boo Hewerdine), *Between Trapezes* features musicians hand-picked by Kelly, including a string section, but it is unlikely that a steady group will be formed.

"I enjoy the freedom of not being in a band any more," he explains, "because I've never been a very good politician. We all tailor how we express ourselves to accommodate other people. Typically, women are much better than men at saying 'This is what I want and this is why I want it, so therefore you must do it'. I find that harder to say."

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EDUCATION

Who respects teachers?

We made teaching
a working-class
trade, not a
profession, says
Martin Stephen

Nowhere is the influence of England's history more damning and corrosive than in the status of teaching and teachers. In England, English culture does not respect teachers, it merely needs them. To say that this is because teachers are not highly paid is to put the chicken before the egg. It is because teachers are not highly regarded that they are not highly paid. Some of the reasons for this — perhaps even most of them — lie in history.

We made a serious mistake when we created our first state educational system in the 1870s and 1880s. We went for the cheap option in that, in a class-ridden society, blue-collar workers would accept the apparent promotion to white-collar status as part of their payment. Working-class recruits were cheap and there in large numbers. There was no outcry from the chattering classes: middle and upper-class children were safely hived off to public schools, so what could be more apt than working-class children being taught by working-class teachers?

In Germany, a different course was taken, with appointments to key posts going to those from highly respected universities. Hence the title of "Herr Professor" was given to teachers, which commanded respect in the community. We made teaching a working-class trade, not a profession. It has suffered ever since. It is easy to view teaching as a lowly occupation. Everyone thinks that they can teach a bit and everyone thinks they know about schools — after all, most adults do some of the former with their children, and all of them went to school for up to 13 years. I know plenty of people who reckon that they could knock some sense into a Ridings class but who would never dream of sitting in a GP's surgery and doing his or her job.

Viewing teaching as a rather lowly trade is, therefore, easy. I remember Bob the decorator. He could do the wallpaper, slap on the emulsion and do a reasonable job with the gloss, but I knew I could do it almost as well if only I had the time. Instead, I paid him to do it, and patronised him every time I brought him a mug of tea. People do the same to teachers all the time.

Another more recent and disastrous mistake was the creation of teacher training colleges. Scotland has far more respect for teachers than England. This also has much to do with that country's history, and in particular their decision for many years not to allow anyone to enter teaching who did not have a degree from an established university. The result was that immediate status was conferred on all those who taught. Our chosen path was to create special "colleges" for teachers, which subsequently offered a "special" degree, the BEd. For many years, academics at recognised universities were reduced either to apoplexy or tears of laughter at the academic standard required for these "degrees".

In one instance, a first-year university mathematics paper proved too difficult for



Class distinction: the Victorians made the first mistake by seeing teaching as an option for working-class boys made good

the final-year undergraduates in a BEd mathematics degree and had to be watered down. In another, a mild-mannered don from Durham University's English department was an external moderator and failed over half of the final-year English specialists at a leading college. He was told that he simply could not do that sort of thing. They all passed. The don resigned.

Not all training colleges were bad, of course. Loughborough, for example, put PE on the map as a specialist subject almost single-handedly. But overall, teacher training colleges and the BEd sent out a statement that teaching was for those who could not get into a good university. Even though training colleges have now been converted into departments of universities, in many the culture has not changed. What a double historical whammy: the Victorians seeing teaching as an option for working-class boys made good, and the postwar period seeing it as a course for those who could not get a proper degree.

The answer? First, we must pay teachers more and make the job more worthwhile — but it is far easier to do that if entry to teaching is restricted at secondary level to those with decent A levels and a demanding degree from a

demanding university. Teachers with an MA, MSc or a PhD get a pathetic increment for their pains. It discourages the best brains from entering teaching, and is no incentive for teachers to feed their brains. However, paying teachers higher salaries also means that they must be held more accountable, like other professions.

Second, the Government's promise of a General Teacher Council must mean the creation of a professional organisation to control teaching and have some say on standards in the profession, just as lawyers have the Law Society and doctors the British Medical Association. If the Government can give control of the economy to the Bank of England, it can give control of teaching to teachers.

Third, it should be recognised that the one career guaranteed not to be well represented at a school's careers fair is teaching. Young people should be targeted for a career in teaching while they are still at school. In particular, there should be secondment schemes whereby potential teachers can work for a period in industry so that they come into teaching with experience of the real world, respect from the community and a sympathy for

industry. Fourth, those who seek to join the inspectorate are often those who have failed to make any great success of their teaching careers and seek an alternative career in inspection. The inspectorate should have at its core the best teachers who are seconded to inspect for one, two or three-year terms, thereafter being allowed back into school with their perception of education enhanced as much as their career prospects.

None of these proposals will wipe out the bad effects of history but they might allow some of them to be neutralised.

Dr Martin Stephen is High Master of Manchester Grammar School

Change a child's life with music

Dalya Alberge on the composer behind a foundation supplying musical instruments

A LEADING American film music composer is planning to set up a foundation that will allow cash-strapped British schools to buy and repair instruments for their pupils.

Michael Kamen, whose scores have been heard in blockbusters such as the *Die Hard* movies and *101 Dalmatians*, and who has also written for rock stars David Bowie and Eric Clapton, says: "If we can get instruments into kids' hands, we might keep weapons and drugs out of them. We might be able to introduce them to a world that will change their lives."

The foundation will donate some \$250,000 (£156,000) a year to the cause. "I was raised in an era when the school system cared enough about the students to provide them with the tools for learning," says Kamen, "whether it was with maths books, wood, a vat of clay or musical instruments. That's all gone."

Earlier this year, he established a similar foundation in America: the Mr Holland Opus Foundation, a charitable organisation. The inspiration for it came from *Mr Holland's Opus*, a 1995 film starring Richard Dreyfuss, for which Kamen wrote the music. It tells the story of an inspirational teacher who, after 30 years at a school, is forced by budget cuts to retire. His pupils club together and, in a surprise homage, arrange the first performance of his symphony.

Kamen, who divides his year between America and Britain, educated his own children in England. On both sides of the Atlantic, he began to realise that Hollywood had reflected true life in schools today: "If they don't fire teachers outright, they don't hire new ones if someone retires. They have eliminated hours from the day."

On a visit to his old school in New York, a school "filled with Mr Hollands", he had been shocked when a teacher showed him a room packed with broken, sad instruments. He had to give something back and, with help from the corporate sector, set up the foundation with Dreyfuss.

As budgets are cut further, schools increasingly place learning a musical instrument further down the list of priorities. A MORI survey last year revealed a nationwide shortfall of more than 700,000 instruments, including 117,000 recorders, 60,000 electronic keyboards, 38,000 guitars and 30,000 flutes. Music tuition was increasingly dependent on the parents' ability to pay.

However, research from Switzerland last year found that music actually helped children to develop their language skills. A three-year study involving 1,200 children aged between seven and 15 found that those who took extra music lessons were noticeably better at languages: younger children saw their reading improve.

That was because the way children learn music has parallels with the way in which they learn a language: listening and repeating what they hear. Learning to play an instrument improved that ability.

The composer says: "Mr Holland in the film made a difference to his kids. In the real world, it is up to all of us." He adds: "We can't change the curriculum and the supply of schoolteachers. But we can step in and supply them with instruments. That's an achievable goal, but a big task."

THE AMERICAN foundation invites schools to contact it and fill out a questionnaire describing what they need. It is run by three retired teachers, one of whom taught Kamen.

The American organisation is, Kamen says, "doing very well. We've given a fair number of instruments away." Each year, the composer hopes to see the foundation assist another 50 to 75 schools and introduce children "to a world that will change their lives".

One child wrote to them describing how life at home was so unbearable that music was the only thing that kept him sane. Kamen hopes that he can help British children from next January.

Kamen: "tools for learning"

Video conferencing can help child therapy, writes David Charter

Technology developed by international companies for global boardroom links is being adapted to cut the costs of specialist teaching for schools.

Video conferencing, already used by some enterprising schools to link up with pupils overseas to develop foreign language skills, will help younger children struggling with the basics of communication itself.

Video conferencing involves a screen and video camera in two or more locations, enabling people in each place to converse and see each other as if they were in the same room. Widely used for business meetings, a trial project is being launched today to help speech therapists to stay in regular contact with the growing number of children with speech disorders.

The national education charity I CAN estimates that there are 35,000 children aged four and under with communication problems who can benefit from regular therapy. It can be difficult and costly for a school to continue giving them the help they need when they move to their local primary, because of the time needed for regular visits to a speech therapist for guidance both for the child and their teacher.

I CAN, an acronym that originally stood for Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide when it was founded as a charity in 1988, and which now concentrates on helping children to overcome communication difficulties, has won government funding to test the use of video conferencing in continuing the specialist help.

The charity's nursery in Salisbury will be linked up with four schools around the city for the Teach Speech project, helping up to 20 children. Alison Barker, of I CAN, says: "Whenever you start moving people around

The speaking window of opportunity



Kyle Payne and Nicky Cooper linked to a speech therapist

there is a huge amount of time wasted. It has been calculated that when you take a child out of school to visit a specialist, they actually lose an hour's education just waiting around and travelling.

There is also the fact that speech therapist charges of £80-£100 an hour include travelling time from school to school. Video conferencing will cut out these costs.

"The aim is to deliver high quality therapy," Ms Barker adds. "A therapist will probably serve an extremely wide area and spend an awful lot of time travelling and seeing children on a very sporadic basis. Their liaison with a school would usually be by letter or telephone. The video link means the

therapist is always accessible. This is especially helpful if the teacher finds the child is making progress a lot quicker than expected and needs to ask the therapist to adapt their programme of work. We predict that our therapist will be able to serve four times as many children in the same amount of time."

The expertise of the therapist will also be passed on to teachers and helpers in the schools themselves. Nicky Cooper, an educational support assistant at St Martin's infant school in Salisbury, says the help given to her to work with three children has been invaluable.

"It gives me a weekly link that I would not normally have," she says. "I can take the

work the children have been doing and show the speech therapist. She gives us her advice on what to do, then it is up to us to use that advice as best we can."

This three-year trial project is being assessed by researchers from the University of Glasgow who will monitor whether the children make better progress and whether their schools and teachers find it as satisfactory as the previous system of personal, but less frequent, appointments.

The £230,000 cost has been met by a grant from the Department of Trade and Industry and I CAN, with expert help from BT. Engineers from the telecom company's laboratories in Ipswich, Suffolk, have been working to adapt the equipment from boardroom use, where the microphones and cameras are needed to relay a group meeting, to the noisy nursery setting, where it is important to pick up very clearly the sounds and facial movements of therapist and child.

Hardware for each school is estimated to cost £15,000, which sounds a lot, but is less than the annual £30,000 cost of sending a child to a specialist residential school rather than remaining in their local primary.

Ms Barker says: "This means the therapist can come to the child rather than the child to the therapist. The intention is to prove not only that this is suitable and a beneficial way to provide certain therapy services, but to show it is cost-effective for local education authorities."

Nicky Cooper adds: "Video conferencing could also be of use to occupational therapists or physiotherapists who could show what they require to be done with the child or demonstrate games or exercises for them. The potential is huge."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND REVEAL STRENGTH IN DEPTH FOR FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGAINST PUMAS

Rowell calls up six new caps to face Argentina

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN BUENOS AIRES

WITH 18 English players on duty with the British Isles' England's short tour of Argentina was always going to produce a crop of new caps. Whether anyone, let alone Jack Rowell, the coach, could have envisaged six in one international, as is the case against Argentina tomorrow, is doubtful.

It is a sign of the changing times in English rugby as well as its strength in depth that Rowell can name a team which looks more than capable of beating the Pumas. There are seven Bath players in the side — it could have been eight, but John Mallett has a recurring back problem. Only Mike Catt and Jon Sleightholme are left from the

row forward, who after a barnstorming performance in his first full game of the tour against Argentina A on Tuesday, plays at blind-side flanker, a position Ben Clarke, who is at No 7, would have preferred. However, the absence of Richard Hill and Neil Back in South Africa left Rowell few options at open-side and Clarke, who has played there for England, suffers for his versatility. Diprose after years of faithful A team duty and probably the outstanding forward on the tour, is at No 8.

"Diprose's hands can be on the edge of magic," Rowell said, "while Corry is like a banging door. He is a very powerful man, who has been close for a while. Ben, at the top of his form, is a majestic forward. He was the best in the world in 1993. Maybe he lost a bit dropping down to the second division, but now he is getting back to his best."

Given that Rowell likes to keep units together, Haag's selection ahead of David Baldwin as Nigel Redman's partner at lock was always likely. Haag, who doubted he would be picked, has benefited from the lifting laves and does well in the loose. The mobility of Haag's Bath team colleague, Yates, earned him selection ahead of Rob Hardwick. Yates, 26, is fast becoming "the pick of our loose heads", Rowell said.

Nick Greenstock paid tribute to the influence of Nigel Melville and Rob Smith at Walsley for his elevation, while Mallett has been in outstanding form for Sale. Channel 5 will show the Argentina v England rugby international match "as live" tomorrow evening after the Poland v England football World Cup qualifying match which starts in Katowice at 7.30pm. It had been hoped to stage both matches live, but the television station was unable to get agreement to move forward the kick-off of the rugby international match, which starts at 7.40pm.

Clarke has desire to impose his presence

Mark Souster hears why the captain of Richmond is ready for renewed national duty

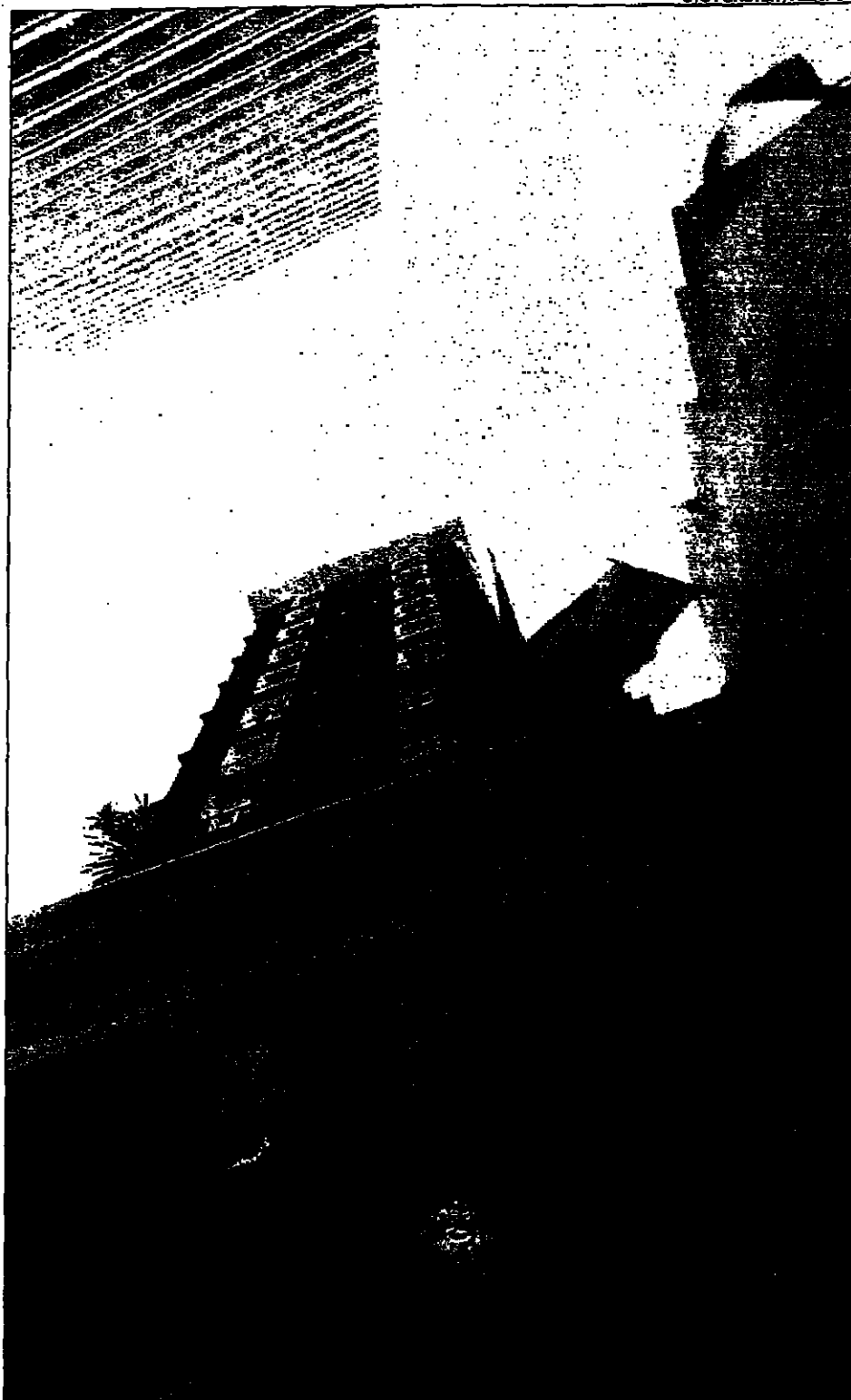
The trials of Ben Clarke's career over the past 12 months are a microcosm of the tribulations that have afflicted the first year of professional rugby union. Both took gambles: the sport by abandoning amateurism, Clarke by leaving behind the safe haven of the Recreation Ground, Bath, for a wage on success — as the new captain at the Athletic Ground, Richmond. While rugby appears to have backed a winner, Clarke, having put his chips on the red, black and old gold colours of the south-west London club, has had to wait for a return on his investment.

He is financially better off, of that there can be little doubt, with a lucrative five-year contract to sustain him. But there has been a price to pay. Who, a year ago, would have imagined an England team in which Clarke was not an automatic selection? Yet having dropped down a division, he fell away, as first injury and then the more outstanding claims of others cost him his international place.

That is why this tour of Argentina is as important to him as it is to the younger players seeking to impress Jack Rowell, the coach, and make an impact on the international scene. It provides an opportunity for Clarke to re-establish himself in an area where England have an embarrassment of riches.

Pretenders abound but, at 29, Clarke at his best, as he has been so far in South America, has few peers. Tomorrow he will win his 31st cap in the first international against Argentina at No 7, a position to which he is not best suited, but his experience will be a vital commodity in what is, Nigel Redman apart, a callow pack.

Sitting in the foyer of the team hotel in Buenos Aires, idly toying with the froth on a cup of cappuccino coffee, Clarke, who gave up his job with National Power to concentrate on rugby, could be forgiven for allowing his mind to wander several thousand miles across the Atlantic to the British Isles tour in South Africa.



Tower of strength: Clarke, back to his best, returns to the England pack tomorrow

Four years ago, as an integral part of the Lions tour to New Zealand, he played in all three internationals and such was his impact that Colin Meads, the great former All Blacks forward, was moved to consider him the only Lions player worth keeping. "You can send the others home," he said, "I have Clarke. Meads said, 'He was player of the year and the only England representative to be named in a hypothetical World XV. For a young man of 25 who appeared to have it all, it was heady stuff."

"It was a good time," Clarke recalled. "But times change, things move on. I don't regret moving to Richmond, we have won promotion and we should do well next season. I'll be back playing against my contemporaries next week out — back in the shop window — which can only be a good thing."

"I knew there was a risk [in moving] and I obviously hoped it would not have a bearing on my international career but going professional provided the opportunity to be part of a something from the start. I needed a change," he said.

His absence from the British Lions party he took philosophically. "I didn't have a good feeling about the Lions," he said. "Not playing [for England] didn't really help. But they picked others who hadn't been part of the five nations, so I still hoped. But it is just one of those things."

Johnson and Rodber add beef to Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

The first close examination of the British Isles tour awaits as the Newlands Stadium here tomorrow, against Western Province, though, judging by the Lions' efforts in South Africa so far, they already have their work cut out. It will also provide evidence of the quality of the English beef which, all along, has been expected to underpin the tour. Seven of the England pack will play against the unbeaten side that, earlier this season, won the Nine Series, the competition for those provinces not involved in the Super 12 tournament. They include Martin Johnson, the captain, and Tim Rodber, who make their first appearances of the tour.

The Lions, who are due to meet Nelson Mandela, the South African president, this morning, also take a calculated gamble by omitting both their proven international goalkeepers, Neil Jenkins and Paul Grayson. That duty will fall, initially, upon Tim Stimpson with Gregor Townsend providing back-up. The Newcastle full back has been striking the ball powerfully in training, both off the ground and out of hand.

In the absence of Scott Gibbs, the selectors have chosen to pair Jeremy Guscott with Allan Tait in the centre. Gibbs, the Swansea centre, travelled ahead of the main party from Bath, London, to Cape Town yesterday so that day-long training could be given to the ankle ligaments damaged by the accident which overtook him on Wednesday, but he is expected to be match-fit within ten days.

John Bentley is switched from the right wing to the left where he will face the frequently explosive, James Small. Though unfamiliar with the left flank, Bentley is looking forward to the clash. "People say we are quite alike, which may have had some bearing on selection," he said.

colleagues, Keith Wood and Mark Regan.

The Lions, however, cannot continue to rely on a late burst of activity to win matches. South African critics have identified, correctly, some hesitation at stand-off half and a lack of cohesion in the scrums that needs to be addressed. John Bradbrook, the Border scrum half, was particularly harsh on the quality of their tackling which, against Eastern Province and Border, has failed to stop opponents in their tracks and force the handling errors necessary if loose ball is to be turned over.

Moreover, the Lions had reason to query the quality of refereeing that ignores obstructive cross-overs in open play, offside at second phase and the law that requires



Rodber: tour debut

scrums to stand alone side each other at the scrum feed. "Even Steve Strydom (chairman of the South African rugby union's referee development committee) acknowledged that the referee was not of the quality you would want to see," Cotton said. Andre Burger, of Gusheng, who handled the match with Border.

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RACING: JOCKEY CLUB TO REVIEW RULE 153 IN WAKE OF NEWCASTLE STEWARDS' DECISION

Ramsden wins Epic Stand appeal

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE Jockey Club yesterday overturned the match-race disqualification of Epic Stand at Newcastle last week — and then defended the local stewards whose decision cost punters millions.

"People who have been screaming about this having been one of the worst decisions by local stewards in living memory do not need to be told that it was a very close call," said David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs. "To call the stewards all the names under the sun is unreasonable."

Epic Stand, trained by Lyna Ramsden at Thirsk and ridden by Fergal Lynch, the apprentice, was heavily backed to land a handicap over the straight mile last Thursday and duly obliged by three lengths. However, to the surprise of most observers, the 13-8 favourite was disqualified after the stewards, chaired by Gerald Maitland-Carew, decided that Lynch had been

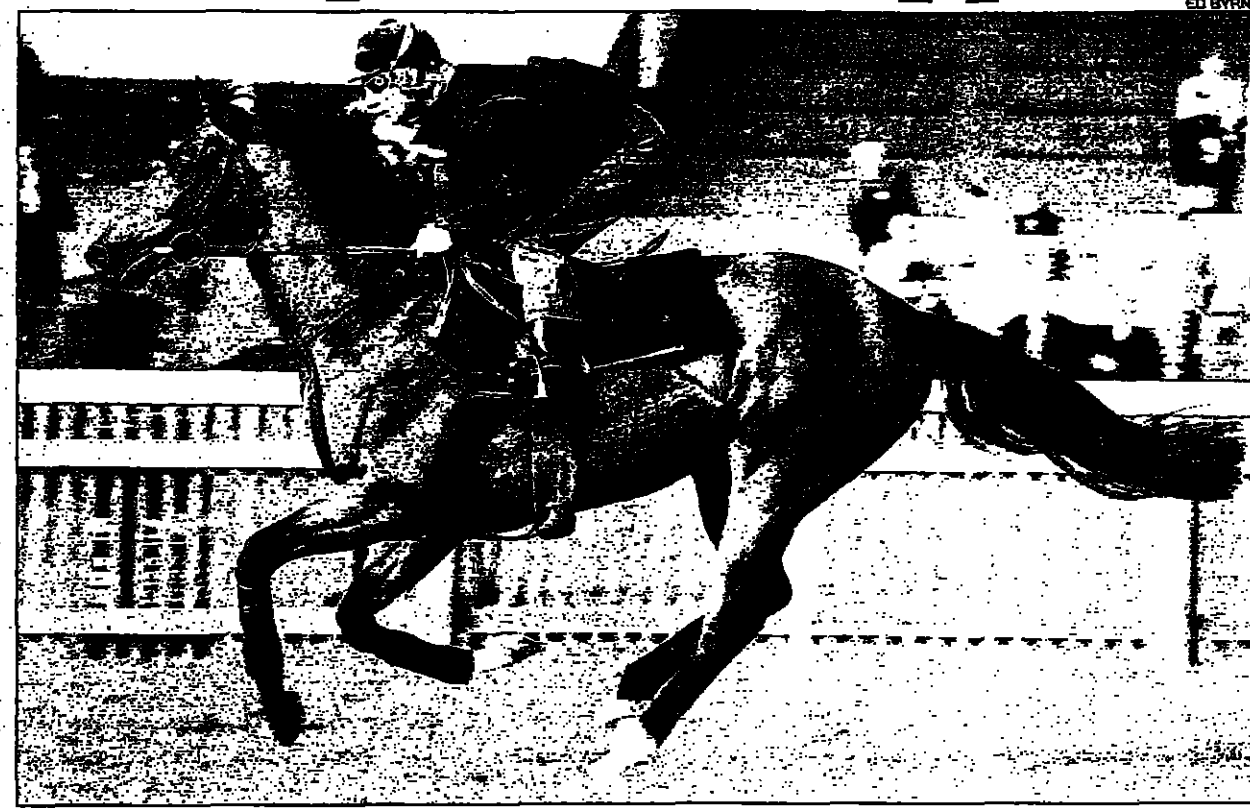
guilty of irresponsible riding when going for a gap as he made a winning challenge.

After a 2½-hour inquiry, the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee decided that the interference was due to carelessness — rather than irresponsible — riding and reinstated Epic Stand as the winner. However, it upheld the four-day suspension imposed on Lynch, which begins tomorrow.

Significantly, the Jockey Club announced it is now reviewing rule 153, which deals with riding offences, including the category of irresponsible riding which was introduced in April 1994. As the rules stand, a jockey can be found guilty of irresponsible riding if he causes interference by some manoeuvre "when it ought to have been obvious to him that interference would be the result".

In a nutshell, the Newcastle stewards thought Lynch should have known he was likely to have caused interference when he went for a gap between Musical Express and Real A Line. The disciplinary committee concluded that the gap was wide enough for Lynch to think he could get through — even though he subsequently caused interference.

Mrs Ramsden, whose anger at the original disqualification was shared by thousands of punters, did not mince her words when she emerged from yesterday's hearing. "I think it is a clear case of the only responsibility that anybody has shown — never mind



Entrepreneur continued to please yesterday in his preparation for the Vodafone Derby tomorrow week

irresponsible riding — was the decision of the stewards and the stewards' secretary at Newcastle.

"Racing is run for punters and I think they have been absolutely robbed. How can they feel happy about a bet when there are decisions like that?"

In similar vein, Jack Ramsden, husband of the trainer and one of the shrewdest punters in the land,

added: "The race prize-money is fairly irrelevant, but all the bets have gone down the tubes and punters have been robbed. I am disappointed Fergal has still got four days. At least they could have reduced it to two."

However, he took some comfort from the decision of the Jockey Club to review rule 153 and hopes that it may prevent betting shop punters from being on the receiving

end of such bad decisions in future.

With just eight days to the Vodafone Derby, advance bookings have hit an all-time high, according to the organisers. Bus-side bookings are up by more than 40 per cent compared to this time last year and advance ticket sales are up nearly 50 per cent.

Ticket sales for Vodafone Oaks Day, the previous day, are up almost 70 per cent and corporate hospitality on both days has been fully sold.

At Newmarket yesterday morning, Entrepreneur, the Derby favourite, pleased gallop watchers as he worked over nine furlongs with two stablemates from Michael Stoute's yard on the Racecourse Side's watered gallop. The emphatic 2,000 Guineas winner is a best priced 5-4 on to win at Epsom tomorrow week.



Ramsden: angry

THUNDERER
6.35 Farne And Fantasy: 7.05 Boots N All: 7.35 Hay Dance: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy: 8.35 Indian Jockey: 9.05 Malt The Chariot.
Carl Evans: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD SIS

6.35 BAILEY'S ORIGINAL IRISH CREAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.122: 2m 110yds) (19 runners)
1. 2004 INSTANT MERRY 16 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 5941 SPURRY TO GLORY 20 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 5114 BROTHERS ALL 16 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1494 LEGAL ARTIST 12 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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9. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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12. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
13. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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16. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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18. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
19. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
20. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

7.05 JEAN AND TONY HIBBERT'S HANDICAP CHASE (23.548: 2m 5f 110yds) (5 runners)
1. 2004 INSTANT MERRY 16 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 5941 SPURRY TO GLORY 20 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 5114 BROTHERS ALL 16 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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COURSE SPECIALISTS
THUNDERER: 6.35 Farne And Fantasy: 7.05 Boots N All: 7.35 Hay Dance: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy: 8.35 Indian Jockey: 9.05 Malt The Chariot.
Carl Evans: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD SIS

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Carl Evans: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD SIS

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Carl Evans: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD SIS

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5. 1942 JAMIE 13 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

COURSE SPECIALISTS
THUNDERER: 6.35 Farne And Fantasy: 7.05 Boots N All: 7.35 Hay Dance: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy: 8.35 Indian Jockey: 9.05 Malt The Chariot.
Carl Evans: 8.05 Pter Too Touchy.

GOING: GOOD SIS

7.35 TARMAC CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

8.05 HORSE AND HOUND CHAMPION NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

8.35 WEATHERBY'S YOUNG HORSE AWARDS HANDICAP CHASE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

9.05 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

9.35 WEATHERBY'S YOUNG HORSE AWARDS HANDICAP CHASE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

9.65 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

9.95 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

10.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

10.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

11.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

11.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

12.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

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1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

14.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

14.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
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5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

15.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

15.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

16.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

16.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

17.25 GRANDSTAND CONSULTANTS' NOVICES HURDLE (23.626: 2m 110yds) (6 runners)
1. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
2. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
3. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
4. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
5. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy
6. 1111 YUBALKA 14 (J.P. O'Brien) 11-10 A.P. McCoy

17.55 GRANDSTAND CONSULT

CRICKET

Elliott and Langer make most of batting practice

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

BRISTOL (final day of three): Gloucestershire drew with the Australians

AFTER their bowlers had loosened up on Wednesday, it was the turn of Australia's batsmen to get in some valuable practice yesterday. Matthew Elliott, their first-choice opener, made 124 and Justin Langer, one of the spare batsmen, finished with 152 not out as they batted through the day before declaring at 354 for four.

They would have preferred their beleaguered captain to have made a century, but Mark Taylor lasted only half an hour before he was out leg-before to Martin Ball, the off spinner. He made 30 when he really needed a score such as Elliott's. "It was nice to spend some time in the middle," he said, "and it would have been nice to have made more runs. But they're not bowling many half-volleys."

Taylor is taking a philosophical view of his poor form, and confirmed that he would lead Australia into the first Test, which starts at Edgbaston next Thursday. "I feel I'm muddling the ball pretty well, but the problem now is a mental one," he said. "Every county match is like a Test match. If I can come through this patch, and get runs, then I'll be ready to go."

As ever, the Australia captain is conducting himself with grace and common sense, despite his lack of runs and the intense media interest in his failure. That interest resulted yesterday in some provocative meddling by a tabloid news-

paper, which greeted him at the ground with a three-foot wide bat it had mocked up on its back page, boasting that Taylor's tale of woe was the biggest story in Ashes cricket since the Bodyline series 60 years ago.

It should be borne in mind that this not-terribly amusing stunt had nothing to do with the papers' cricket correspondent, who was chastened by the whole wretched business. Compared with the "declaration of war" against Germany that its editor announced on the front page last June, before the European championship semi-final at Wembley, it could be said that Taylor got off lightly.

It was still an unsavoury business and Taylor confessed that he was disappointed by the morning ambush. "I don't think I should have to stand next to a three-foot bat to prove

I have a sense of humour," he said. Quite right.

"I was very nervous to start with," he said of his latest innings. "The pressure is on me, there's no getting away from that. It's not like playing here in county matches in 1993 and 1994. There are no freebies for me. I think I have got to play in the first Test, but I would like to get there on form alone."

Elliott, the tall left-hander from Victoria, will be Taylor's opening partner at Edgbaston. His runs here meant that Michael Slater, the opener he deposed last winter, can have a game this weekend at Derby, where he made a hundred in two hours on the tour four years ago.

Together with Langer, Elliott added 192 for the second wicket until he was leg-before to Mike Smith, bowling the second over with the new ball. Elliott struck 18 boundaries and lifted Ball over mid-wicket for six. England could see an awful lot of him this summer.

Langer is unlikely to feature in the Test team unless Greg Blewett's knee injury fails to heal. His century came in quicker time and he reached it by the unglamorous means of two overthrows. The match had lost its sting by then, and the sight of Jack Russell bowling round-arm brought down the curtain on three pleasant days.

Chris Ball, an all rounder, Justin Bates, an off spinner, and James Pymont, a batsman, will make their first-class debuts for Sussex against Oxford University in the Parks today.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 249 (S R Watson 82, M E Waugh 66, J J Lewis 4 for 89)

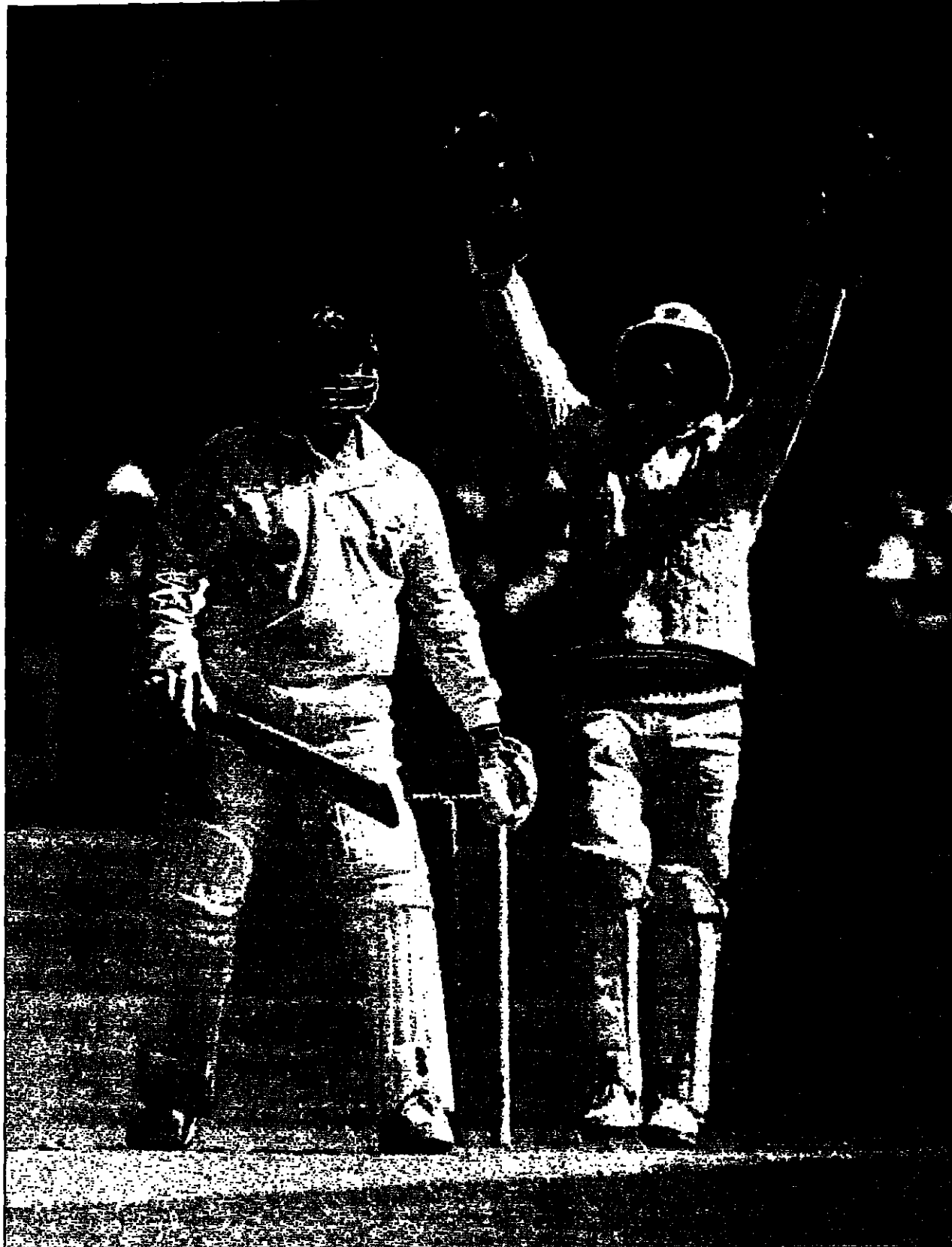
Second Innings
M T G Elliott lbw b Smith 124
J Langer not out 152
S K Warne b Smith 0
J N Gillespie c Russell b Lewis 32
M E Waugh not out 32
Extras (b 6, lb 2, w 1) 9
Total (4 wickets dec) 354

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-254, 3-262, 4-269

BOWLING: Smith 13-5-18-2, Davis 29-6-101-0, Lewis 18-5-59-1, Ball 28-9-89-1, Albrey 8-2-25-0, Trueman 3-2-6-0, Hancock 5-0-26-0, Russell 3-0-15-0, Young 2-0-5-0

GLoucestershire: First Innings 350 (N J Trueman 121, R J Cunniffe 61, S K Warne 4 for 97)

Umpires: G I Burgess and P Adams



Russell, the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper, appeals as Taylor, the Australia captain, falls leg-before to Ball

Middlesex handover marked by revealing hundreds

BY PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four): Middlesex won toss; Middlesex have scored 400 for two wickets against Northamptonshire

AS WORDSWORTH might have put it, bliss was it on that pitch to be a batsman... but to be a Middlesex captain, young or old, was very heaven. Or, in more prosaic terms, things could not have gone much better for Mark Ramprakash and Mike Gatting on the day one took over the leadership of the county and the other set his sights on a century of centuries.

Ramprakash did not need any advice from Gatting before electing to bat on winning the toss and sitting back to wait for what was, indeed, a heaven-sent opportunity. Jacques Kallis and Paul Weekes gave Middlesex their best start of the season, Kallis went on to score his first hundred for the club, and then Ramprakash and Gatting seized the moment.

Not surprisingly, Ramprakash made a nervous start, but he got all the support he needed from his predecessor, and by the time they completed their centuries on a beautiful sunlit evening, both of them were reveling in the magic of it all.

The statistics reveal the character of the two innings. Ramprakash reached his hundred first, but it had taken him 380 minutes and 219 deliveries. It was his third of the season and the 36th of his career. Gatting, who had given Ramprakash 33 runs and 33 overs start, got to his century in only 156 minutes off 157 balls. It was his second of the season and the 92nd of his career.

Both reached their milestones with singles off Taylor, the left-arm swing bowler, who by then had been reduced to bowling slow left-arm, which tells you all you need to know about the Northamptonshire bowler, which probably



Ramprakash: careful

suspected what was coming when Pollard conceded 17 runs in his first over.

Pollard, released by Middlesex at the end of last season, began with four wides, which count as six in the championship these days, conceded two boundaries and added a no-ball. Kallis needed no second invitation to show his class, and with Weekes producing some punishing strokes of his own, they had 107 on the board in 23 overs when Weekes drove Curran straight to extra cover.

Perhaps Weekes had been unsettled by the sight of John Emburey, his former mentor, coming on in his role as twelfth man as well as Northamptonshire coach, and no doubt reflecting on the fact that his side could well do with his bowling. Emburey's appearance had brought generous applause from the Middlesex faithful, but it had none of the warmth of the greeting for Ramprakash as he took up his onerous new duties.

He was clearly taking his responsibilities seriously, needing 26 balls to get off the mark, but it hardly interrupted Middlesex's progress since Kallis was going so well. The South African is particularly powerful off the front foot, and he relished the short boundary on the Grandstand side as he advanced to 121, including 22 fours, off 162 balls in a brisk under four hours.

Then he drove Curran to extra cover in much the same way as Weekes had done, leaving the stage to the man who is now taking on the burden of leadership, and the man, who has carried it for nearly 14 seasons.

Both of them will be happy if there are many more days like this. While Ramprakash continued to show the determination he expects from his batsmen, Gatting revelled in his release from such pressures. It was as though they were feeding off each other, and by the close their partnership was worth 181.

Yorkshire sixth-wicket pair hold key

BY SIMON WILDE

ILFORD (first day of four): Essex won toss; Yorkshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 139 runs behind Essex

THIS was a most extraordinary day's cricket, full of incident, entertainment and surprises. When the batsmen were not striking boundaries, the bowlers were taking wickets, and by stumps the tally stood at 455 runs and 15 wickets, with no partnership lasting more than 19 overs.

One upshot is that Essex, having done the important thing at St Valentine's Park and won the toss, are well on top and if they do not go on to win this match now it will be a surprise. They were all out for 297 - Gough taking five for 74 - and by stumps Yorkshire had stuttered to 158 for five. At one point they were 67 for five, before Michael Vaughan and

Richard Blakey saw out the day and restored their crumbling hopes, Vaughan making a cultured 92 not out.

The other consequence is that, with 15 wickets falling in the day, the pitch will be reported as a matter of course to Lord's by umpires Sharp and Steele, but is likely to escape censure. The sheer volume of runs ought to be vindication enough, but if not, there was no shortage of poor shot selection worth taking into account.

The pitch is green and dry, offering little to the fast bowlers except bounce but showing signs of turn even before lunch, by which time Yorkshire had already tried out Stemp and Vaughan. Stemp took three wickets with his left-arm spin. Such two for Essex with his off spin, Essex fully expect him to be their match-winner now.

They were nothing like so sanguine in mid-afternoon.

Then they were 184 for eight and were making pretty poor use of the best batting conditions the game will probably see. Prichard was yoked in Gough's second over but Gough, Hussain, Stuart Law and Irani all got their feet under the table.

It was no great surprise when Gough was bowled by



Gough: five wickets

White's second ball but less expected were the departures of the others. Hussain had moved serenely to 42 when Stemp's extra bounce found the shoulder of his bat and gave Byas a simple slip catch. Law pushed forward tentatively to give another catch in the slips and Irani, having thumped the ball around to good effect, pushed forward at Gough and was caught behind.

Gough was bowling superbly at this point, as he had in his first probing spell in the morning. Returning after lunch, he claimed three wickets in three overs, bowling yorkers and inswingers at will. Unfortunately, he and his colleagues let themselves down in seeking the last two wickets, grossly overdoing the bouncer and surrendering precious runs.

These two wickets yielded 113 runs, Cowan adding 84 in 13 roisterous overs with

Rollins and 29 with Such. Rollins led the way with some clean hitting and Cowan, who is a fast-rising new-ball bowler but no mean batsman either, soon caught his mood.

He, too, planted his foot down the pitch and drove the ball handsomely. His unbeaten 43 was a career-best score and he has now more first-class runs to his name this season than Gooch (135 against 134).

Yorkshire were soon in trouble. Moxon was beaten by outswing in Iltot's second over, while Byas spent 11 uncomfortable overs scoring five. Lehmann drove loosely at Iltot and was caught in the slips and White was no more circumspect.

Only Parker could make excuses, run out at the non-striker's end in the unlikeliest of manners, via a deflection from Such's hand. Yorkshire's fragile hopes rest with their sixth-wicket pair.

Centurions flay Durham bowlers

BY BARNEY SPENDER

CARDIFF (first day of four): Glamorgan won toss; Glamorgan have scored 433 for three wickets against Durham

SUMMER, at last, arrived in the Principality with a vengeance and, for the decent-sized crowd which turned up at Sophia Gardens yesterday, it spelt three things: cold pop, sun cream and the flattest of pitches that allowed the home batsmen to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

At the heart of it was a thrilling opening partnership of 229 between Hugh Morris and Steve James, who both recorded their second centuries of the season. James got his before lunch, while for Morris it was his fifth, in Glamorgan colours. Then, when James departed for 153 and Morris followed for 135, Adrian Dale, who fell just before the close for 73, and Matthew Maynard set Glamorgan up for a colossal total today.

The pitch is expected to take spin as the game goes on and in Robert Croft and Dean Cosker, Glamorgan may have their match-winners.

This was a pretty good toss to win and Maynard had no hesitation in opting to bat first. Six overs into the innings, Morris and James had 32 on the board and the captain was free to turn his attention to the racing guide in the car park knowledge that his openers were set for a substantial partnership.

On present form, however, it was hardly a surprise for this has to be the most consistent and complementary opening pair in the country. Morris, the doughty left-hander with the granite defence, and James, the beetle-browed right-hander with a passion for making the boundary boards rattle. Either could fill in admirably at Edgbaston next week should Mike Atherton or Nick Knight not be available. This was their third century partnership of the

season although, for good measure, James also put on a hundred with Adrian Shaw in the win over Kent when Morris was injured.

"They kept bowling balls in nice places," James said kindly about the Durham attack. True, they did bowl poorly, especially with the new ball, and the fielding was also short of par, but that is not fair on James, who was in, especially fine form.

He had previously taken 109 off Yorkshire, and has now passed fifty in six of his seven championship innings, his only "failure" being a 46 against Kent. Yesterday, he raced to his fifty from 59 balls, survived a difficult chance to James Bolting in the gully on 58, and then, when the first of the all-run fours took him to 80, he had the pleasure of being the first man in the country to reach 500 runs in the championship. Morris was the second when he reached 62.

James went on to his century off 126 balls with his seventeenth boundary, a flick through mid-wicket off Beiling. The record books suggested that it was the first Glamorgan hundred before lunch - since Maynard's against the 1993 Australians in Neath and the first on this ground since Majid Khan in 1969. By the time, midway through the afternoon, when he rifled a return catch back to Bolting, James had fayed the attack to the tune of 153 runs from 184 balls: He struck 24 boundaries and stretched Morris' goodwill to the limit by calling for two all-run fours.

Morris continued to plunder the beleaguered attack and reached his own milestone just before tea with a sweet boundary off the left-arm spin of David Coe, who was curiously under-used by David Boon. Morris' partnership of 119 with Dale ended when he drove Collingwood to John Morris at extra cover.



Morris: hit milestone

Nottinghamshire are grateful to Afzaal

BY RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four): Nottinghamshire won toss; Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs behind Nottinghamshire

FOR someone still in his teens, at least for another fortnight, Usman Afzaal shows remarkably little of the rashness one associates with youth. Patience is clearly a virtue in his mind and, not for the first time this season, Nottinghamshire were grateful for it yesterday.

Since introducing him for the first time this season against Lancashire, Notts have won both of their four-day games in climbing to second place in the table. Victory here will take them above Gloucestershire, the present leaders. Kent, however, are entitled to feel that they hold the initiative after dismissing the home side for 216, despite missing Dean Headley from their attack because of a back injury that will also rule him out of the first Test against Australia next week.

Afzaal was raised in Karachi, where his father served as an officer in the Pakistan army, and arrived in England at a time when Notts were not strangers to such an exalted position. He gained a reputation in schoolboy cricket as a left-arm spinner and considers himself as an all-rounder.

One tale illustrates his confidence. When Notts released Chris Lewis two years ago, Lewis suggested that Afzaal should fill his place in the Notts side and that, with regular opportunities, he could become an England player by the age of 21. On hearing this, Afzaal took umbrage. He told Lewis that he could become an international by 20 and proclaimed so publicly.

The opinion of Lewis does not carry much weight within the hierarchy at Trent Bridge and Afzaal has had to

force his way into the side by scoring heavily for the second team. At county level, at least, he will surely be a fixture for years to come.

Notts confirmed yesterday that they have terminated the contract of Mohammad Zahid and are waiting to learn from the English Cricket Board whether they can sign an alternative overseas player on the grounds that Zahid never made an appearance because of his back problem. Ata-ur-Rehman, another Pakistan fast bowler, is the most likely replacement.

Notts have not been let down by their younger English-qualified players so far. Indeed, the two lowest scorers in the top order yesterday were their two most experienced batsmen, Metcalfe and Johnson. With Fleming and Ealham swinging the ball around on a warm morning, scoring was never easy and Downman lost his composure after close to two hours when he nibbled at Fleming.

Ealham trapped the uncertain Gie leg before on the back foot and tempted Johnson to follow one to second slip in successive overs before McCague produced a snorter that lifted and left Archer, whose 49 exceeded the aggregate of his previous seven championship innings.

Notts were 122 for six when Fulton held Noon smartly caught at short leg, but Afzaal consistently showed the full face of his bat in adding 58 in 22 overs with Evans.

The latter perished to an attempted hook and, after a stay of 186 minutes, Afzaal edged an attempted steer to Marsh, one of six catches for the wicketkeeper, thus beginning a spell of three wickets in eight deliveries for Fleming, who finished with career-best figures of five for 51.

Leicestershire attack thwarted by Lloyd

BY JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (first day of four): Lancashire won toss; Lancashire have scored 365 for nine wickets against Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE were not quite able to achieve the final breakthrough in time to claim the day. They bowled well and fielded magnificently in the face of losing the toss, in conditions made for batting, captured six good wickets before Lancashire had reached 200, but then saw Graham Lloyd make 82, staging a rescue with the indomitable Warren Hegg, who, coming in at the fall of the sixth wicket, went on to play the longest innings of the day.

With the cheerful help of Glen Chapple, Hegg continued Lancashire's revival. Thus a day that had begun with the good news - for Leicestershire - that Wasim Akram would not be playing, due to his troublesome shoulder injury, and saw Alan Mullally's four wickets push Leicestershire to the brink of success, ended with honours even.

Lloyd's was a combative innings, full of belligerence despite the knowledge that a number of earlier dismissals had been the result of too much confidence and insufficient application. While Hegg held firm, Lloyd met fire - and there was plenty of that from Mills and Mullally - with fire. His 82 came from 101 balls; his 12 fours were the result of a keen eye and a batsman in the full bloom of confidence.

Previous scores of 225 against Yorkshire, 102 against Durham, and 62 against Nottinghamshire were a helpful background to Lloyd's innings against one of the best county attacks. He certainly did Lancashire proud.

Before Hegg joined Lloyd, Leicestershire were riding high. To have

reduced batting of the order of Lancashire's to 179 for six on a good batting pitch was an achievement worthy of the 1996 champions. Although the fine edge to a vibrant display became dulled in the heat of a long day, Leicestershire stuck well to their task. Whataker made the most of his resources.

All, save Gallian, of Lancashire's formidable early batsmen, seemed well set before they were out. Gallian had scored 12 of a brief opening partnership before being well picked up, low down, at slip by Johnson, who has proved a useful bits-and-pieces player.

How useful was shown when he took a hand in two of the next three wickets to fall. This did not include that of Atherton. Entirely unassisted, Mullally accomplished the England captain's downfall with a ball of good length which straightened. Atherton was turned round square to the bowler when the ball flicked his off ball.

A gilt-edged calling card from Mullally, then, just to ensure that he was not forgotten. He also came back later to all but destroy the Lancashire middle order, but before then Johnson had played a notable part by having John Crawley caught behind and, amid a flurry of bouncers, inducing Fairbrother to swat the ball to extra cover.

Once Lloyd had been stumped beautifully off a well-flighted ball from Pierson, it was chiefly a tale of Hegg, obdurate and invaluable, and Chapple, who played better than anyone coming in at No 10 has a right to do. Hegg was bowled by the second new ball, but by then, Lancashire were well back in the game, and Mills was looking a little the worse for wear.



James: fine century



David Powell, athletics correspondent, finds that Steve Backley still has several points to prove

More of that talk. "I am ready to do battle like never before," he said. "I am ready for Jan, even if he is in the best shape of his life." In Latvia tonight, Backley warms up for the challenges ahead with his first competition of the season, as does Jonathan Edwards, Britain's triple jump world champion.

It is not difficult to pinpoint why Backley has had the lowest media profile of Britain's leading athletes.

"Everybody was building me up and I pushed it and pushed it until my body broke down. I do not force the javelin any more. I flow with it. The rhythm of the event is very important and it was something I ignored."

Backley has with him a batch of postcards, picturing him with a javelin and personally autographed, to give away. Mostly, though, these postcards go abroad, to countries where the javelin is popular. "I get ten times more letters and requests for autographs from Finland and Germany than I do from England," he said. He has a lot of talking ahead of him.

ACF-1



FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

Britain's more established female sculler, Olympic finalist Guin Batten, took gold and silver against strong opposition in Cologne a month ago and seems to have benefited from a winter's training in Hong Kong. She is still coached by Miles Forbes-Thomas but, since January, the rest of the British women's squad has been coached by Mike Spradcken, who has formed two quad skulls for the leading performers.

The British men's heavyweight eight, composed of London University, Imperial College and Leander members, has a youthful look with seven medal-winners on board from the world under-23 championships last year. The coxless pair selection, the preserve of Redgrave and Pinsent through the 1990s, has been taken over by two Atlanta performers, Rob Thatchner, who was Cracknell's doubles partner, and Ben Hunt-Davis, who was in the eight.

England, who have been chosen to represent Britain at this tournament for the top six countries in the world, are using the event as part of their build-up to the World Cup qualifying competition in Harare, Zimbabwe, in August and will be led by a new captain, Mandy Davies.

However, she said: "We won't be approaching our first game as revenge for what happened in Atlanta — it's just the first international in a tournament."

Celtic drovers at the ready (BBC1, 9.30)

lacking in pace and excitement.

Harry Hill

Channel 4, 10.30pm

The funny thing about Harry Hill, among many funny things, is that the comedian with such a wide range of props — the bald head, the thick-rimmed glasses, the huge stard collar — should come across so effectively on radio. There was a reminder only recently with the latest series of *Harry Hill's Fruiteer Corner*. It was the same with the Goons, from whom Hill has inherited a similarly anarchic and surreal sense of humour. But the Goons never translated effectively to television. Hill does. He was one of the best things in the otherworldly, disappointing *Saturday Night Live* series, and now he has to bring an TV series. Those familiar with *Fruiteer Corner* can expect many of the same delights, including the old Nanna, the adopted son who can only communicate through tapping, the relay of running gags, the verbal contortions and Barry Krumpholtz as stonage. **Peter Wynter**

RADIO CHOICE

Law in Action
Radio 4, 8.50pm

There are some subjects which continue to absorb us even though they are impossible to resolve in any definitive way. One such is the ownership of the world's mineral wealth. The trouble with the legal minefield surrounding items which in many cases, let us face it, have been looted from overseas. There was some surprise when the incoming Labour Government announced in its first week that the Elgin Marbles would not be going back to Greece; but there are countless other artworks in our museums - and in private hands - which have kept specialists and lawyers busy for years. Not to mention the problem is that laws in one country sometimes contradict those in another. **Prof. Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley
2.00pm Nicky Campbell, includes Afternoon Lovefest 4.00pm
Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong — Essential
Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce
11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Diane Louise Jordan 3.00 Ed
Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night
is Music Night 9.15 Last Orders (R/S) 9.30 A Taste of Brass
10.00 Sheridan Morley 11.00 The Jacques Loussier Trio
12.05am Sus McGarry Incl at 2.30 Pause for Thought with
Pauline Webb

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Neil 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport. Includes Leeds Rhinos v. Warrington Wolves and Wigan Warriors v Paris Saint-Germain in the Stanes Super League 10.00 Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours with Alan Boswick 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Delin

TALK RADIO

5.00pm Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00-Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Dailtime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mo'z Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All Times in EST. News on the hour. 5:00pm Monday 5:30
 Europe Today 7:15 The World Today 7:25 Pick of the Week
 8:15 Off the Shelf 8:30 Music Review 9:15 Praise for Thought
 9:35 Performance 9:50 John Peel 10:05 Business 10:15 Sports
 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30
 12:30pm. Focus on Faith 1:05 Business 1:15 Britain Today
 1:30 Victors of Reality 1:45 Sport 2:00 News 2:05 Sports Outlook
 2:30 MusicReview: Alternative 4:05 Football Extra 4:15 Twists
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 News 11

CLASSIC FM

2.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Reed 8.00 Hall of Fame Hour
10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jennie Clark 5.00
Newnight 7.30 Sonnets 8.00 Evening Concert. Includes Mozart
(A Musical Joke); Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor, Op
25; 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00pm Concerto (1)

VIRGIN RADIO

2.00am Russ 11.00am Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham
Dain 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Harris 7.00 Paul Coyle
(FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark
Ford 2.00pm Howard Pearce -

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham
Deane 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte
(FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark
Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce -

RADIC 3

Orlik, tenor; Raymond Herliox and Thomas Herliox, baritone; the Northwest Choir and Orchestra, under John Elcig Gardner.

5.05 **Missa Machine**, Young Composers' Workshop. Verity Sharp follows the progress of Scott McCreesh as he writes a piece for members of the BBC Philharmonic.

5.15 **In Time**, Presented by Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Wallace (Overture); Manteloni; Mozart (Homage to French); in C flat, K407; C. B. Bach (Symphony in E minor, Wo 178); Kersley (Pineo Trio in D minor, Op 32).

7.30 **Bath International Music Festival**, See Choice 12.30.

7.50 **Wagner and Liszt**, Read by Anthony Hyde (5/5).

8.50 **Heard and New**, Read by Anthony Hyde (5/5).

9.00 **Concert of postwar and post-war German music**, John Orford, bassoon; Rosemary Harry, soprano; Andras Wipacs, soprano; London Sinfonietta under Michael Katz, Violoncello; David Gifford, first UK performance; Dieter Glanert (Gesalt, first UK performance); Bernd Ramm (Seasons of Light, first performance); Hanne (Abstraktion, first UK performance); Hanne (L'Esprit, first UK performance).

11.30 **Composer of the Week: Handel** (L).

12.30 **Steen Jazzer** in Lae. The second of three programmes in which Matt Phillips explores the life and work of one of the legends of jazz, the man who celebrated his 77th birthday this week (L).

1.30 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macdonald.

2.00 **Steen Jazzer** (Carolina News 214, 208, 209, 210 and 216) 2.50 **Steen Jazzer** (Carolina News 214, 208, 209, 210 and 216).

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RADIO 4

- 6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
- 6.30 **Growing Season.** Professor David Stevens visits the Royal Horticultural Society show in Scotland and Ed Strat examines the popularity of alpinists
- 7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
- 7.20 **Pick of the Week.** Chris Serie presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
- 7.45 **Any Old Sunday** Jonathan Denchak chairs the topical debate from Carnock, Staffordshire with panelists including the writer and journalist Bea Campbell; the broadcaster and columnist David Atkinson; Barbara Mercer, president of Lucy Cavendish College; Jonathan Denchak; Robert Winston, Labour peer and fertility expert
- 8.50 **Law in Action.** See Choice
- 9.15 **Letter from America.** Another slice of the Stateside served up by Alastair Cooke
- 9.30 **Colossus on the Frontier.** The Dame Judi Dench interview The co-creator of the series, John Alton as she begins a new role in London here's *Play, Amy's View of the National Theatre in London* by
- 10.00 **The World Tonight.** with Robin Lustig
- 10.45 **Scotty's Country.** with the hosts of J.L. Carr. Read by Samuel Johnson
- 11.00 **Week Ending.** A satirical look at the week's news with Jon Glover, Sally Grace, Dave Lamb and Sara Seligson
- 11.25 **Fourth Column.** Presented by Times columnist John Diamond
- 11.45 **Letters from Another Time.** Michael Goldfarb reflects on New York
- 12.00 **World at War.** The *Warrior's Tale* by Barbara Mercer, Read by Joanne Momo (2/2)
- 12.45 **Shopping Forecast.** 1.00 *Art* by Joanne Momo

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5. LIVE. MW 835, 306. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. MW 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1107, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1055, 1065.
 Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, (ex-Hinches, Rosemary Smith & Co.)

All action and not nearly enough character

I came to bury *Bodyguards* (ITV), really I did. Since its moderately bright opening a month ago, my weekly rendezvous with the boys and girls of the Close Protection Group has become less and less of a priority. Poor characterisation, indifferent plots and the gradual realisation that, while Dis Shaw (Louise Lombard) and Worrell (Sean Pertwee) are easy on the eye they are rubbish at their jobs, had tried my patience too often. Last night was its last chance. And, damn it, it got one.

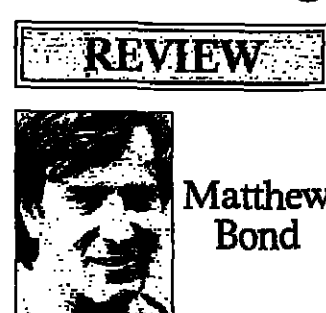
But before I lapse into eulogy let's not get carried away. The problems are still there and the biggest of them all is Shaw and Worrell, the central couple on which so much rides. And fails. Individually, Lombard and Pertwee are both fine actors, but in coming together for *Bodyguards* they are less than the sum of their parts. That, however, is not all their fault. The directors and

writers have been concentrating so hard on getting the expensive whizz-bangs of counter-intelligence right that they have neglected the need to create some genuine personality. The result? Shaw and Worrell don't have any. In fact, if there's a duller pair of coppers this side of *Crime Traveler* I'll eat next week's *Wokenwell*.

Then there's the dialogue. Last night, Worrell was sitting in a safe-house guarding a traitor (as you do) and trying to write a birthday card to his daughter. Given that Gemma's mother, Worrell's former wife, was shot dead in front of her in episode one, you'd think even the most committed career policeman would make a special effort, but no — a card would do. Somehow I'm never really there for the moments that matter," he whined. Anyway, with that he posted it in a letter-box, which a few minutes later was blown up by a KGB double agent, and the

writers forgot to make any capital out of the fact that the birthday card would have got blown up, too. It's the small things that matter.

But last night the big things were so good, you could almost forgive the deficiencies of the subplot. At last, John Shrapnell had the heavyweight plot and the heavyweight supporting cast to make sense of his rather theatrical performance as Commander MacIntyre. Leading that cast was Michael Williams, who for one night only (sadly) swapped light comedy for high treason but called on the same reserves of affable charm to play Maurice Boyd who, until he detected to the Russians, was very big at M16. Cleverly, Williams made Boyd so likable a traitor that we could all share the same sense of betrayal that MacIntyre, a former friend and colleague, was growing about so deeply.



Matthew Bond

Anyway, Boyd had been allowed back to Britain to bury his recently deceased granddaughter and it was CPG's job to stop anybody such as M16 or distinguished Oxford academics who are ready recruiting him for the KGB from killing him. For once, they managed it (hurrah!), helped it must be said by somewhat improbable displays of insight by MacIntyre (when it comes to car-

bon tetrachloride in oil sumps or bombs in coffins he's your man) and lots of cleverly maintained tension from Julian Jones, the writer. The building-blocks of plot may have been culled from newspaper headlines, but he put this particular set together quite beautifully. Right down to the explosive twist at the end.

Over on BBC2, *Tracks* returned for a new series, looking more like a trendy biology or geography lesson than ever. A couple of new presenters, some wobbly new camera angles and there you have it: natural history for those who weren't paying attention the first time. Or missed *Blue Peter* when Graham Dangerfield told us the difference between frogs and toads.

Two things were missing last night — three if you count Pete McCarthy, whose much heralded arrival from Channel 4's *Travelogue* has yet to materialise. The first

was any item that made you think: yes, I'd like to have a go at that. In a series designed to help us all embrace the great outdoors this seemed an important failing. The second was a distinct feeling that what we were watching was seriously prerecorded. But then snowdrops in May do tend to be a bit of a give-away, don't they?

With nobody taking the role of main presenter, the overall result is a curiously lifeless programme that is probably the exact opposite of what its energetic young team intended. What it needed was somebody just to say "nice weather we're having, so why don't you go out and try..." Instead, we had Nick Fisher doing his bit for amber collecting.

With McCarthy not yet on board, the nearest programme has to a star is Ray Mears, a man who can survive in all weathers

but doesn't seem to have learnt how to shave in any of them. Last night he went for a walk in Surrey, the county where he first got interested in bushcraft. And his number one survival tip? Never cook a sausage on a stick from the Weyfaring tree.

Finally, All at Sea set sail on Channel 4 and left me feeling precisely that. The *Carnival Destiny* is one of those huge but characterless cruise-liners, built in Italy to transport overweight Americans around the Caribbean. The fact that it has one or two Brits among its multi-ethnic crew does not make it any more of a character. Still, it had its moments, among them the youth director with the customer-relation skills of a cornered rattlesnake and the Latin American and Caribbean waiting staff, who marked the ship's first Thanksgiving dinner by massaging *God Bless America*. Land of the what-was-it?

6.00am Business Breakfast (57295)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (45363)
8.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (45367)
9.20 Style Channel (608418)
9.45 Kifory (7339837)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7853)
11.00 News (1) and weather (7173382)
11.05 The Great Escape (1) (7530382)
11.35 Real Roads (800386)
12.00 News (1) and weather (8700553)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (4450559)
12.35 Mary Berry at Home (8980569)
1.00 News (1) and weather (49450)
1.30 Regional News (8612672)
12.00 Making Tracks. Last in series (86547) 12.30pm Working Lunch (13188)
1.45 Neighbours (1) (4021230)
2.10 Quincey (6051363)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (6727856)
3.20 Closest Secrets (1) (6851127)
3.30 Playboys (688127) 3.50 Plasmio (597725) 4.00 Doctor and Badger (1) (6193032) 4.10 Aca Ventura, Pet Detective (1) (4557011) 4.35 Clansia Explains It All (1) (7192127) 5.00 Newsround (1) (4950059) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (6729585)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (492479)
6.00 News and weather (289)
6.30 Regional News (851)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog Anne Robinson and Edward Elford follow up complaints against companies in the leisure industry (1) (5498)
7.30 Top of the Pops presented by the Spice Girls (1) (295)
8.00 X Cars Cameras follow two officers from Manchester police's Vehicle Crime Unit as they pursue a stolen articulated lorry and assist in a bust on a drugs dealer (1) (1818)
8.30 A Question of Sport with guests England rugby union captain Iwan Tuk, 400m runner Iwan Thomas, Sunderland striker Niall Quinn and yachtsman Ben Ainslie (1) (3653)
9.00 News (1) regional news and weather (6885)
9.30 CHOICE Drower's Gold Part one of a live-part western drama series about Celtic cowboys driving cattle from Wales to London in the 19th century with Geraldine James (1) (3761063)
10.25 Fatal Instinct (1993) Spoof of Hollywood erotic thrillers, with Armand Assante as a suave cop-turned-lawyer who finds he may have bitten off more than he can chew in the shape of three vicious females, played by Sean Young, Kim Cattrall and Sherry Fenn. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (4382924) WALS: 10.25 The Gert Escape (575:83) 10.55 FILM: Fatal Instinct (1993) (18063061) 12.50-2.15am FILM: The Baby (1973) (4750389)
12.20am The (1973) Chiller with Ruth Roman and Armand Assante. Comedy thriller about a social worker who develops an unhealthy obsession with the case of a woman whose fully-grown son has the mind of a toddler. Directed by Ted Post (1) (2043525)
1.45 Weather (3673677)

6.00am Open University: Psychology in Action: Personnel Selection (880127) 6.25 Why Care? (888834) 6.50 Population Transition in Italy (8375547) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (3261537) 7.30 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (3700330) 7.35 Tales of the Tooth Fairy (3700331) 7.40 Eek! the Cat (3707566) 7.50 Busted Treasure (1583924) 8.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8313837) 8.35 Young People's Special (3667721) 9.00 The Racooners (93011) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (6882278) 9.55 Pockington Peas (3490189) 10.00 Teletubbies (30943) 10.30 The Adventures of Skippy (85285) 11.00 Today's Gourmet (4276) 12.00 Making Tracks. Last in series (86547) 12.30pm Working Lunch (13188) 1.45 Neighbours (1) (4021230) 2.10 Quincey (6051363) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (6727856) 3.20 Closest Secrets (1) (6851127) 3.30 Playboys (688127) 3.50 Plasmio (597725) 4.00 Doctor and Badger (1) (6193032) 4.10 Aca Ventura, Pet Detective (1) (4557011) 4.35 Clansia Explains It All (1) (7192127) 5.00 Newsround (1) (4950059) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (6729585)
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1.45 Weather (3673677)

6.00am GMTV (1886030)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (1) (6092108) 9.55 Regional News (1) (2410943) 10.00 The Time, the Place (34769) 10.30 This Morning (1) (82339214) 12.20pm Regional News (1) (8706837) 12.30 News (1) and weather (982856) 12.45 Our House (1) (9867547) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7094863) 1.50 Murdoch, She Wrote (1) (4029564) 2.50 Garden Calendar (1) (8889943) 3.20 News (1) (6889943) 3.25 Regional News (1) (8864214) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (5118301) 3.40 Slim Pig (7748108) 3.50 Cartoon Time (7735092) 4.00 The Treacle People (7026450) 4.15 Where's Wally? (541450) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (8850943) 5.10 A Country Practice (7445769) 5.40 News (1) and weather (688585) 6.00 Home and Away (1) (7) (402382) 6.25 HTV Weather (388363) 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (479) 7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (1) (7389) 7.30 Countdown. Street Nattalie makes a confession to Kevin (1) (363) 8.00 The Bill. A hit-and-run incident leaves Rawton and Boulton at loggerheads over their priorities (1) (9214) 8.30 See You Friday. Greg and Lucy finally meet up at his best friend's birthday celebrations and, as their relationship is progressing, he decides to tell her his darkest secret (1) (8721)

As HTV West except:
12.58pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9867547) 1.25-2.50 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445769) 6.25-7.00 Central News (777479) 10.40 Film: American Flyers (59967634) 12.40am In Bed with Madeline (5207122) 2.15 Baywatch (5267986) 3.05 Cyber Cafe (4877851) 3.30 Hefty Skelter (131257) 4.15 Central Jobline '97 (9485661) 5.20 Aslan Eye (8502851)

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8706837) 12.58 Home and Away (9867547) 1.25 What You Were Here (22783479) 1.55 Blue Heaters (820566) 2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7445769) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18634) 10.30 Westcountry News (145769) 10.45 Film: Shadow of a Doubt (12663045)

6.00am Sesame Street (1) (40905)
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10.25 Fatal Instinct (1993) Spoof of Hollywood erotic thrillers, with Armand Assante as a suave cop-turned-lawyer who finds he may have bitten off more than he can chew in the shape of three vicious females, played by Sean Young, Kim Cattrall and Sherry Fenn. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (4382924) WALS: 10.25 The Gert Escape (575:83) 10.55 FILM: Fatal Instinct (1993) (18063061) 12.50-2.15am FILM: The Baby (1973) (4750389)
12.20am The (1973) Chiller with Ruth Roman and Armand Assante. Comedy thriller about a social worker who develops an unhealthy obsession with the case of a woman whose fully-grown son has the mind of a toddler. Directed by Ted Post (1) (2043525)
1.45 Weather (3673677)

6.00am Open University: Psychology in Action: Personnel Selection (880127) 6.25 Why Care? (888834) 6.50 Population Transition in Italy (8375547) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (3261537) 7.30 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (3700330) 7.35 Tales of the Tooth Fairy (3700331) 7.40 Eek! the Cat (3707566) 7.50 Busted Treasure (1583924) 8.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8313837) 8.35 Young People's Special (3667721) 9.00 The Racooners (93011) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (6882278) 9.55 Pockington Peas (3490189) 10.00 Teletubbies (30943) 10.30 The Adventures of Skippy (85285) 11.00 Today's Gourmet (4276) 12.00 Making Tracks. Last in series (86547) 12.30pm Working Lunch (13188) 1.45 Neighbours (1) (4021230) 2.10 Quincey (6051363) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (6727856) 3.20 Closest Secrets (1) (6851127) 3.30 Playboys (688127) 3.50 Plasmio (597725) 4.00 Doctor and Badger (1) (6193032) 4.10 Aca Ventura, Pet Detective (1) (4557011) 4.35 Clansia Explains It All (1) (7192127) 5.00 Newsround (1) (4950059) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (6729585)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (492479)
6.00 News and weather (289)
6.30 Regional News (851)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog Anne Robinson and Edward Elford follow up complaints against companies in the leisure industry (1) (5498)
7.30 Top of the Pops presented by the Spice Girls (1) (295)
8.00 X Cars Cameras follow two officers from Manchester police's Vehicle Crime Unit as they pursue a stolen articulated lorry and assist in a bust on a drugs dealer (1) (1818)
8.30 A Question of Sport with guests England rugby union captain Iwan Tuk, 400m runner Iwan Thomas, Sunderland striker Niall Quinn and yachtsman Ben Ainslie (1) (3653)
9.00 News (1) regional news and weather (6885)
9.30 CHOICE Drower's Gold Part one of a live-part western drama series about Celtic cowboys driving cattle from Wales to London in the 19th century with Geraldine James (1) (3761063)
10.25 Fatal Instinct (1993) Spoof of Hollywood erotic thrillers, with Armand Assante as a suave cop-turned-lawyer who finds he may have bitten off more than he can chew in the shape of three vicious females, played by Sean Young, Kim Cattrall and Sherry Fenn. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (4382924) WALS: 10.25 The Gert Escape (575:83) 10.55 FILM: Fatal Instinct (1993) (18063061) 12.50-2.15am FILM: The Baby (1973) (4750389)
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6.00am GMTV (1886030)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (1) (6092108) 9.55 Regional News (1) (2410943) 10.00 The Time, the Place (34769) 10.30 This Morning (1) (82339214) 12.20pm Regional News (1) (8706837) 12.30 News (1) and weather (982856) 12.45 Our House (1) (9867547) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7094863) 1.50 Murdoch, She Wrote (1) (4029564) 2.50 Garden Calendar (1) (8889943) 3.20 News (1) (6889943) 3.25 Regional News (1) (8864214) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (5118301) 3.40 Slim Pig (7748108) 3.50 Cartoon Time (7735092) 4.00 The Treacle People (7026450) 4.15 Where's Wally? (541450) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (8850943) 5.10 A Country Practice (7445769) 5.40 News (1) and weather (688585) 6.00 Home and Away (1) (7) (402382) 6.25 HTV Weather (388363) 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (479) 7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (1) (7389) 7.30 Countdown. Street Nattalie makes a confession to Kevin (1) (363) 8.00 The Bill. A hit-and-run incident leaves Rawton and Boulton at loggerheads over their priorities (1) (9214) 8.30 See You Friday. Greg and Lucy finally meet up at his best friend's birthday celebrations and, as their relationship is progressing, he decides to tell her his darkest secret (1) (8721)

As HTV West except:
12.58pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9867547) 1.25-2.50 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445769) 6.25-7.00 Central News (777479) 10.40 Film: American Flyers (59967634) 12.40am In Bed with Madeline (5207122) 2.15 Baywatch (5267986) 3.05 Cyber Cafe (4877851) 3.30 Hefty Skelter (131257) 4.15 Central Jobline '97 (9485661) 5.20 Aslan Eye (8502851)

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8706837) 12.58 Home and Away (9867547) 1.25 What You Were Here (22783479) 1.55 Blue Heaters (820566) 2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7445769) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18634) 10.30 Westcountry News (145769) 10.45 Film: Shadow of a Doubt (12663045)

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1
6.00am Morning Glory (57701) 9.00 Roys and Kathy Love (27561) 10.00 Andrew World (5112) 11.00 The One With the... (78555) 12.00pm The One With the... (78555) 1.00pm The One With the... (78555) 2.00pm The One With the... (78555) 3.00pm The One With the... (78555) 4.00pm The One With the... (78555) 5.00pm The One With the... (78555) 6.00pm The One With the... (78555) 7.00pm The One With the... (78555) 8.00pm The One With the... (78555) 9.00pm The One With the... (78555) 10.00pm The One With the... (78555) 11.00pm The One With the... (78555) 12.00am The One With the... (78555)

SKY 2
7.00pm Saturday (78555) 7.30pm Saturday (78555) 8.00pm Saturday (78555) 8.30pm Saturday (78555) 9.00pm Saturday (78555) 9.30pm Saturday (78555) 10.00pm Saturday (78555) 10.30pm Saturday (78555) 11.00pm Saturday (78555) 11.30pm Saturday (78555) 12.00am Saturday (78555)

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00am Sports Centre (19127) 7.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 8.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 8.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 9.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 9.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 10.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 10.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 11.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 11.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 12.00am Sports Centre (19127)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Sports Centre (19127) 7.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 8.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 8.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 9.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 9.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 10.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 10.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 11.00pm Sports Centre (19127) 11.30pm Sports Centre (19127) 12.00am Sports Centre (19127)

SKY NEWS
7.00am News (19127) 7.30pm News (19127) 8.00pm News (19127) 8.30pm News (19127) 9.00pm News (19127) 9.30pm News (19127) 10.00pm News (19127) 10.30pm News (19127) 11.00pm News (19127) 11.30pm News (19127) 12.00am News (19127)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
7.00am The Thin Man (1934) 7.30pm The Thin Man (1934) 8.00pm The Thin Man (1934) 8.30pm The Thin Man (1934) 9.00pm The Thin Man (1934) 9.30pm The Thin Man (1934) 10.00pm The Thin Man (1934) 10.30pm The Thin Man (1934) 11.00pm The Thin Man (1934) 11.30pm The Thin Man (1934) 12.00am The Thin Man (1934)

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مكة امه الاصل



GOLF 41

Broadhurst puts Ryder Cup back into focus

SPORT

FRIDAY MAY 30 1997

RUGBY UNION 42

Johnson and Rodber roar into the fray



England coach appeals to league

Hoddle to ask leading clubs for extra time

By Russell Kempson

GLENN HODDLE, the England coach, is gradually becoming acclimatised to the demands of international football management, yet one thing still frustrates him after a year in the job: the lack of time that he can spend with his players. Now, with the assistance of the Football Association and the FA Premier League, he is hoping to solve the problem.

Hoddle is reasonably content with the duration of the pre-match training camps and squad get-togethers. What irks him is the fact that his players return to their clubs so swiftly after midweek games. At present, they either leave the same evening or early the next morning. There is little time for any debriefing.

Hoddle is seeking an extra day with his squad, on the Thursday after a midweek fixture, and is asking the Premier League to consider putting back the subsequent FA Carling Premiership programme by 24 hours, from Saturday to Sunday. It would, he argues, also give the players an extra day to recover.

Hoddle said that he experienced a unique luxury after the 2-1 victory against South

Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday. With the players remaining together because of their World Cup group two qualifying tie against Poland in Katowice tomorrow, he was able to talk with them about how he, and they, viewed his sixth victory in seven matches as the England coach.

"It was the first time I've been able to speak to them post-match," he said. "It's always been very difficult before. They tend to disappear very quickly."

"If we were able to put back the Premiership games to a Sunday, after an internation-

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
England	5	4	0	1	9	2	12
Poland	4	1	2	3	8	4	4
Georgia	3	0	3	3	5	5	0
Moldova	4	0	4	2	11	0	0

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3, Moldova 1 Italy 2; England 2 Poland 1; Italy 1 Georgia 0; Georgia 0 Poland 2; Poland 2 Moldova 0; England 0 Italy 1; Italy 3 Moldova 0; Poland 0 Italy 0; Italy 3 Poland 0; England 2 Georgia 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Tomorrow: Poland v England; June 7: Georgia v Moldova; June 14: Poland v Georgia; Sept 10: England v Moldova; Georgia v Italy; Sept 24: Moldova v Georgia; Oct 7: Moldova v Poland; Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland.

al, then I could have the Thursday with the players. They can come back to the hotel, relax, eat the right things and we can address everything properly.

"It benefits us and it surely benefits the club managers, too. It's an idea which is only in its infancy, but we're already talking to the Premier League."

So far, it has drawn a cool response. "We have been asked to look at this matter by the FA," a Premier League spokesman said. "We will respond to it in due course."

Logistically, it is unlikely to happen. The Premier League has already allowed for five spare Premiership weekends next season, which does not include the possibility of England having to compete in a two-legged play-off, later this year, in the World Cup qualifying series.

Hoddle will still try, even if it proves fruitless. It illustrates his determination to gain every advantage available as England attempt to reach the World Cup finals. Poland, tomorrow, is the next hurdle to overcome.

"I don't really feel under any more pressure than I did in my first game," Hoddle said before the squad left for Katowice. "Everyone is saying that this is my biggest game but they're all big. The next game is always the biggest."

England struggled to beat Poland 2-1 at Wembley in October and, for once, he allowed his usually calm exterior to slip. "He was as angry as he's likely to get," Gareth Southgate, the Aston Villa defender, said yesterday. "He wasn't shouting but we got the message."

Hoddle remembers, too. "I had a few stern words," he said. "It wasn't how I wanted it done. We didn't give Poland the respect we should have. Since then, if the players don't do the things I want, they could find themselves out of the team. In that respect, it was a positive thing to come out of the game."

"Poland are tough, they like to man-mark, but I'm confident we can beat them again. They can't afford to be negative, they will have to come at us. When they do, that's when we've got to punish them."



Hingis plays a powerful double-handed backhand during her second-round victory over Pizzichini in the French Open yesterday

Hingis holds nerve in close encounter

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

ON THE fourth day of the French Open, the army of big men kept pounding down their serves under a relentless sun. It is almost obscene, this power, this grunting masculinity. So let us look the other way, for yesterday was given its true drama and fascination by the women.

Three 16-year-olds, each of a different nationality, each different in shape and size and even colour, were playing the tennis of tomorrow. Martina Hingis, the Czech girl who has taken Swiss nationality, visited self-doubt for the first time in this extraordinary year, in which she is unbeaten after 37 matches. The world No.1, Hingis was a set down and 4-3 down to Gloria Pizzichini, when the Italian, on the brink of the upset of the tournament, double-faulted, and with that loss of nerve allowed Hingis to find her rhythm and ultimately to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Hingis then took the media conference in her stride, smiled her winning smile, and

even responded to a question that implied she was not moving as fluently as normal. Had she put on a couple of kilos while convalescing from her knee surgery?

"Extra kilos?" she pouted. "I don't think so. This dress is pretty tight. I wouldn't be very happy to look like a pig out there. To tell you the truth, I didn't have the eye for the ball, I wasn't anticipating on the court the way I usually do. It happens. It was a game of tennis, and I thanked God when she [Pizzichini] double-faulted."

After that, Hingis found the rhythm and will to take her through to her next match, against Anna Kournikova. The Russian, a few months younger than Hingis, had also eliminated an Italian, Sandra Cecchini, easing through 6-2, 6-2.

Kournikova, who is very self-composed, says, with almost programmed, measured tones, that she can have no hang-ups about facing the unbeaten world No.1. "I mean, I have played No.1 before, I played Steffi," she countered,

referring to Steffi Graf who, all of 28, is still winning matches on the Paris clay, and not looking ready just yet to step aside for the new generation. "Steffi came here young once, you know," Kournikova said, and was there just a hint of mischief in her cold Russian eye.

Hingis v Kournikova in the third round is the future, and sometimes as one watches this pampered, precocious and just

occasionally petulant breed of teenage tennis stars, one wishes that they had spent longer in the playground than on the playing courts, where up to 16,000 people at Roland Garros expect perfection under the microscope.

Hingis had even bordered on petulance when she twice questioned dubious line calls during her mini-trauma against Pizzichini. The French crowd, whistled her down, cheered her opponent to the very end.

Later, in an exhausting encounter on Centre Court, Venus Williams proved just as fallible, as many envious people would like to see her. She was beaten in two hours and 24 minutes of tenacious, wonderful, sometimes error-ridden combat with Nathalie Tauziat, the 29-year-old Frenchwoman who was playing on the Centre Court here when Williams was a schoolchild, a child indeed of a Californian ghetto.

Now, Williams is a multimillionaire, on a fast track that has left Tauziat behind. But something quite stirring was taking place. In a country where the National Front gains "worrying" support by offering to repatriate immigrants, the Frenchwoman, whom the home supporters were willing to victory yesterday, was actually born, and lived the first eight years of her life in the Central African

republic of Bangui. She happens to be white, she combines the instinct of the African to play to the extremes of concentration and competitive might, with the Gallic touch on a tennis court. But she had to scurry around the court, to retrieve and repel enormous power, to show willpower that taxed every nerve and sinew.

It was an absorbing, compelling contest. Williams, who knows no other way than to play every point flat out, against Tauziat, who has the wiles and the experience, locked together in unremitting sport. And the crowd cheered both with equal enthusiasm. When Williams won the first set, they became a little subdued, when Tauziat came back in the second, they were roused, and at the end they gave equally to the contestants. Tauziat had prevailed 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

Rangers act swiftly to capture Amoroso

RANGERS have once again revealed the extent of their ambitions by demonstrating the depth of their pockets (Kevin McCarran writes). The Scottish club yesterday spent £3.95 million on the defender Lorenzo Amoroso, from Fiorentina, and £1.75 million on Stale Stensness, a left back from Rosenborg Trondheim.

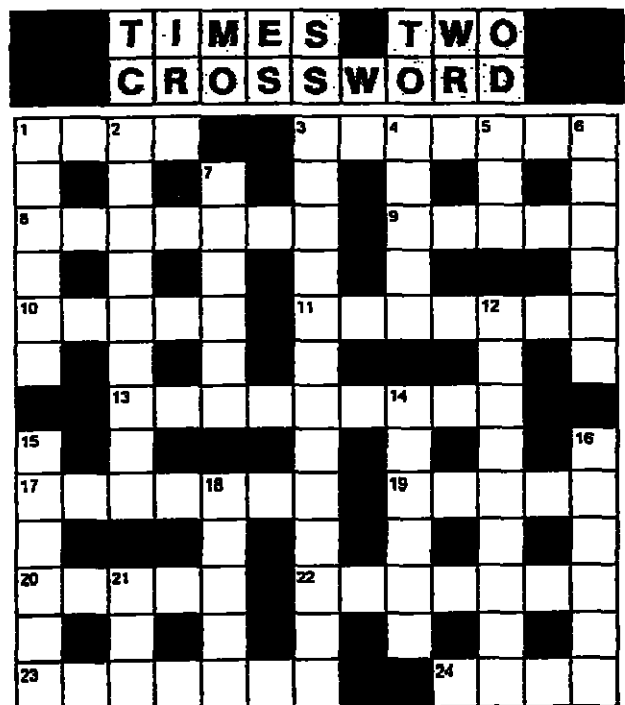
The two players will feature in a much-altered team. David Murray, the Rangers chairman, has said that there could be nine signings this summer.

Amoroso, 25, had attracted the interest of several clubs, but Rangers moved with alacrity, having opened discus-

sions with him only on Tuesday. He is believed to have ignored late interest from English clubs, including Manchester United. The Italian centre back said that he had been attracted by Rangers' plans and by the regularity with which they qualify for the Champions' League.

The cosmopolitan tone at the club has been enhanced by the appointment of a Danish first-team coach, Tommy Moller Nielsen.

Funding the buying spree presents no great difficulties, given that the investor, Joe Lewis, took up new shares, worth £40 million, in the club earlier this year.



No 1107

- ACROSS
- 1 Fully satisfy (4)
 - 3 Pensive (7)
 - 8 Moscow ballet company (7)
 - 9 Carsman (5)
 - 10 Horrify (5)
 - 11 Interpret (7)
 - 13 Royal French (scarlet) banner (9)
 - 17 Adult (5,2)
 - 19 Superfluous, thin (5)
 - 20 Out of bed; excited (5)
 - 22 Wonderful Lamp man (7)
 - 23 Very old (7)
 - 24 Handle roughly, paw (4)

- DOWN
- 2 Underground crossing (6)
 - 4 Long-distance (fens) (9)
 - 6 Expensive nuisance (5,8)
 - 7 Abolish tiny piece (5)
 - 9 Not many (3)
 - 10 Voice box (6)
 - 12 Hot pot; sounds cold (6)
 - 14 Wife of last Tsar (9)
 - 15 Slight accident (6)
 - 16 Spiny-crested lizard (6)
 - 18 Centre of nut (6)
 - 20 Look tenderly after (5)
 - 21 Nervous twitch (3)

The solution to 1106 will be published Wednesday, June 4

Offer applies to Times readers in the UK only. Send SAE for details of charges on UK and other titles.

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Times Computer Crosswords by David Abraham - Crosswords on Computer 35 discs (1000 crosswords each, with hints facility and optional 1100 P. level). Includes: Times Crossword (10), Crossword 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 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